

Beginner's Guide to Undergraduate Study in the USA:

**APPLYING TO
AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES
FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDY**

Prepared By:

Roberta James Paola, Educational Adviser

Educational Advisory Service (EAS)

United States Consulate

Durban, South Africa

2902 Durban Bay House

333 Smith Street

Durban 4001

Phone: (031) 3055068

Fax: (031) 3046861

Updated August 2001

Contents:	Page:
About American Degrees	3
How to Apply	4
Costs and Financial Aid	6
Visa Information	8
Choosing a US University	10
Rankings – What Do They Mean to Me?	14
Two Year Colleges	18
Time Schedule for Applying	21
Frequently Asked Questions	24
Resources on Undergraduate Study at the Educational Advisory Service	27
Appendix 1: Undergraduate Fees	28
Appendix II: Financial Aid for International Students	31
Appendix III: Tips on Writing your Application Essay	54
Appendix IV: Packing List	64

With this Package, you should also receive the following materials:

1. Peterson's "Applying to Colleges and Universities in the United States";
2. A map of the United States;
3. "If You Want to Study in the United States" Undergraduate Booklet.
4. The Brochure on Advising Services at the EAS.

ABOUT AMERICAN DEGREES

American undergraduate degrees are based on a **Liberal Arts** philosophy that requires students to take a wide variety of courses in the arts and sciences before concentrating in one academic area, creating a "well rounded education."

The Associate degree: normally lasts two years and is designed to meet the requirements of the first two years of a bachelor degree. Please read the Chapter on Two-Year Colleges for further information on this type of degree.

The Bachelor degree: consists of

- 1) general education courses in a wide range of subjects;
- 2) a major, which is a concentrated field of study; and
- 3) electives which are a student's free choice.

Although Bachelor degrees are designed to be completed in four years, there is no fixed completion time scale. Instead, a degree is awarded after a student has completed a required amount of coursework expressed in terms known as credits/units or semester hours. Usually a student will need to accumulate approximately 130 - 180 credits in order to graduate, with each course on average earning 3-4 credits. Continuous assessment is a prominent feature and each course (class) is graded and the grade is then converted into a numeric equivalent on a scale of 0-4.0. These scores are averaged to create a student's **Grade Point Average (GPA)**, which is used as an indicator of performance. Colleges and universities both award undergraduate degrees, and colleges are in no way inferior to universities. We will use the terms "colleges" and "universities" interchangeably in this guide.

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS YOU WILL NEED:

South African-educated students are expected to hold at least a senior certificate with exemption with at least a grade D or higher to apply to a 4 year college or university. Two-year colleges may only require a senior certificate.

WHEN TO APPLY:

Ideally you should begin the process 12-18 months in advance. (See the [Time Schedule for Applying to American Universities](#).) Application forms for the Fall term (beginning August or September) are available in August of the previous year. Each university has its own deadline, which may be as early as November. Allow six months for processing the application. Some universities will accept students for January admission.

Remember, the later you apply, the narrower your choice will be.

HOW TO APPLY

STEP 1 - CHOOSE YOUR COLLEGES

American students consider the whole institution rather than a single department due to the broad approach of the undergraduate degree. Read Choosing a US University for a list of criteria that will help you narrow your choice. Please note that **MEDICINE** and **LAW** are not subjects studied at the undergraduate level in the United States. The field of Medicine is basically closed to foreign students.

Our reference library has course directories that list universities by subject and provide full contact details. We have computer software packages that can quickly provide a university list that is tailored to your needs, and lets you browse through prospectuses and gain access to university Web sites.

To ensure acceptance at at least one of your choices, you should apply to at least one school from each level of difficulty. For example, if you intend applying to Harvard, which is the most difficult school to be accepted into, you should also apply to other schools with varying levels of acceptance difficulty.

STEP 2 - OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS

Write, phone, or preferably email the Director of Undergraduate Admissions at each of the colleges you are interested in for an application form and a catalog (prospectus). Your request should include the following information: name, age, address, nationality, educational qualifications (or predicted qualifications), proposed major (if undecided that is OK), ideal start date, and finally, how you plan to finance your education.

Some American universities now have application forms on-line, which can save you expensive international postal costs and lengthy waiting periods. Remember this option may require a valid credit card to pay any university application fees.

STEP 3 - REGISTER TO TAKE THE SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test)

This is a 3-hour primarily multiple-choice, aptitude test. Most institutions will require the in addition to your school qualifications. Some institutions may also require 3 SAT II Tests which measure the candidate's knowledge in a specific subject.

Registration bulletins and free sample questions for the SAT I or II can be obtained from EAS (the Educational Advisory Service) in person. We also sell test preparation books. You can use our computers to register for the SAT on-line and also to take mock SAT exams.

If English is NOT your native language you will need to register for the TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). The test is given many times every month, and all TOEFL tests in the South Africa are computer based, as paper based tests have been phased out. Registration forms can be obtained from EAS in person.

STEP 4 - RETURN THE APPLICATION FORMS

The US does not have a centralized application system so you must return your completed application forms directly to each individual college. There is no limit to the number of colleges you can apply to; however, most students apply to between 3 and 8 colleges to keep costs down. Read everything thoroughly. Incomplete information will only cause delays. Deadlines are usually firm. Some of the documents often required as part of your application are:

- School transcripts—Certified True copies of your reports from Grade 9 through 12 (Standards 7 through 10); otherwise a document created by schools detailing subjects taken and grades received (check with university);
- Funding certification—form usually provided by university, must be signed by bank or accompanied by bank statements as the university directs;
- SAT and TOEFL (if applicable) scores sent directly from test administrators to the university;
- Letters of recommendation (if required);
- Essay or personal statement (if required).

You should be aware of the costs involved in the application process:

- Costs of catalogues: \$5-15 approx.
- Non-refundable application fee paid to university: \$30-\$100 (bank draft in US\$ or by credit card)
- Test application fees: SAT I - \$38, SAT II - \$35-\$48, TOEFL - \$100

(add \$5 for SAT I and II for fax registration)

Colleges usually notify their applicants of acceptance or rejection between April and June. Note the deadlines by which you have to reply if you are accepted. If you are accepted by more than one institution, write to the one you decide to accept (pay a deposit if required) and also write to those whose offers you wish to decline.

COSTS & FINANCIAL AID

COSTS: The cost of a US education is a major consideration for the majority of students. It may be particularly so for international students who have the additional responsibility of proving their ability to meet all costs before they will be granted their student visa.

Each individual college sets its own fees; consequently they vary widely (see [Appendix 1](#)). Generally, tuition for state universities ranges from \$3,000-\$14,000. Private universities generally charge between \$8,000-\$25,000 (as of 1998-99). In addition to tuition and fees, usually, students are expected to purchase all of their books as well as any additional supplies required by their major and this can add up to a significant amount.

Living expenses vary and are usually highest in big cities. They range from \$4,000 to \$14,000 per academic year (9 months) which is in ADDITION to tuition costs. Other costs you will need to consider include transportation between the US and your home country, health insurance (required) and personal expenses.

FINANCIAL AID: In the United States, most students expect to get assistance from their families to cover the high cost of education. Universities extend this expectation to international students as well, therefore you cannot expect to receive an entirely free education. Funding from Local Education Authorities will generally not be available to you when you plan to study outside South Africa.

However, some US universities do offer some form of financial aid to international students. After family resources, US universities are usually the primary source of funding for many international undergraduate students (see [Appendix 2](#)). Private universities are more likely to provide financial aid to international students than state universities. Examine the institution's total costs and if your family can afford 50% and the institution offers financial aid then it is worthwhile applying. Full scholarships that cover total expenses are rare.

Most university financial aid is based on academic merit, although a few will give funding based on need. Other forms of university funding include athletic scholarships, performing arts scholarships or scholarships based on minority or miscellaneous criteria. Make certain to enquire whether universities offer financial aid to international students and for what criteria.

Non-university funding is less common but still available from independent funding bodies, corporations or private individuals. Finding independent funding sources usually requires time and dedication to sift through the listings available in directories and on the Internet. Eligibility for most independent scholarships is limited by very specific criteria, so be certain you meet the eligibility requirements.

Some other sources of financial aid to consider are loans or possible employment with your university. Loans may be available directly from some universities or through certain US lenders providing students find a US citizen who is prepared to co-sign. The provisions of the F-1 student visa allow you to work on-campus for up to 20 hours per week. However, while an on-campus job is a good way of providing pocket money for living expenses, it cannot be used as a source of income for any official financial statements for a visa application.

Talented athletes should request our package of information on “*Athletic Scholarships*”. For further possibilities on all types of financial aid, consult *The International Student Handbook (university funding)* and *Funding for US Study* and *The Scholarship Handbook (university & independent funding)* in our Reference Library.

Most international students will enter the US on a non-immigrant student visa. To qualify for a visa, you must have proof of university acceptance for full-time study. Once you accept the university offer and show proof of sufficient funding, the university will send you either an I-20 or an IAP-66 government document, which proves university acceptance. You can then apply for your visa - either an F-1 or a J-1, respectively. South African citizens may be required to return to their home country in order to apply for a visa to the US if applying outside of South Africa.

You should phone the United States Consulate nearest you to confirm visa days, hours and current costs.

10 Points to Remember When Applying for a Nonimmigrant Visa

1) **TIES TO HOME COUNTRY.** Under U.S. law, all applicants for nonimmigrant visas are viewed as intending immigrants until they can convince the consular officer that they are not. You must therefore be able to show that you have reasons for returning to your home country that are stronger than those for remaining in the United States.

"Ties" to your home country are the things that bind you to your hometown, homeland, or current place of residence: job, family, financial prospects that you own or will inherit, investments, etc. If you are a prospective undergraduate, the interviewing officer may ask about your specific intentions or promise of future employment, family or other relationships, educational objectives, grades, long-range plans, and career prospects in your home country. Each person's situation is different, of course, and there is no magic explanation or single document, certificate, or letter, which can guarantee visa issuance.

2) **ENGLISH.** Anticipate that the interview will be conducted in English and not in your native language. One suggestion is to practice English conversation with a native speaker before the interview. If you are coming to the United States solely to study intensive English, be prepared to explain how English will be useful for you in your home country.

3) **SPEAK FOR YOURSELF.** Do not bring parents or family members with you to the interview. The consular officer wants to interview you, not your family. A negative impression is created if you are not prepared to speak on your own behalf. If you are a minor applying for a high school program and need your parents there in case there are questions, for example, about funding, they should wait in the waiting room.

4) **KNOW THE PROGRAM AND HOW IT FITS YOUR CAREER PLANS.** If you are not able to articulate the reasons you will study in a particular program in the United States, you may not succeed in convincing the consular officer that you are indeed planning to study, rather than to immigrate. You should also be able to explain how studying in the United States relates to your future professional career when you return home.

must make a decision, for the most part, on the impressions they form during the first minute or two of the interview. Consequently, what you say first and the initial impression

you create are critical to your success. Keep your answers to the officer's questions short and to the point.

6) **SUPPLEMENTAL DOCUMENTATION.** It should be clear at a glance to the consular officer what written documents you are presenting and what they signify. Lengthy written explanations cannot be quickly read or evaluated. Remember that you will have 2-3 minutes of interview time, if you're lucky.

7) **NOT ALL COUNTRIES ARE EQUAL.** Applicants from countries suffering economic problems or from countries where many students have remained in the United States as immigrants will have more difficulty getting visas. Statistically, applicants from those countries are more likely to be intending immigrants. They are also more likely to be asked about job opportunities at home after their study in the United States.

8) **EMPLOYMENT.** Your main purpose of coming to the United States should be to study, not for the chance to work before or after graduation. While many students do work off-campus during their studies, such employment is incidental to their main purpose of completing their U.S. education. You must be able to clearly articulate your plan to return home at the end of your program. If your spouse is also applying for an accompanying F-2 visa, be aware that F-2 dependents cannot, under any circumstances, be employed in the United States. If asked, be prepared to address what your spouse intends to do with his or her time while in the United States. Volunteer work and attending school part-time are permitted activities.

9) **DEPENDENTS REMAINING AT HOME.** If your spouse and children are remaining behind in your country, be prepared to address how they will support themselves in your absence. This can be an especially tricky area if you are the primary source of income for your family. If the consular officer gains the impression that your family members will need you to remit money from the United States in order to support themselves, your student visa application will almost certainly be denied. If your family does decide to join you at a later time, it is helpful to have them apply at the same post where you applied for your visa.

10) **MAINTAIN A POSITIVE ATTITUDE.** Do not engage the consular officer in an argument. If you are denied a student visa, ask the officer for a list of documents he or she would suggest you bring in order to overcome the refusal, and try to get the reason you were denied in writing.

This document was produced by NAFSA: Association of International Educators. NAFSA would like to credit Gerald A. Wunsch, Esq., 1997, then a member of the Consular Issues Working Group, and a former U.S. Consular Officer in Mexico, Suriname, and the Netherlands and Martha Wailes of Indiana University for their contributions to this document. NAFSA also appreciates the input of the U.S. Department of State.

CHOOSING A US UNIVERSITY

Choosing a university from thousands of miles away presents serious difficulties. Most American students would visit campuses for guided tours, meet admissions officers or even spend the night on campus with enrolled students. The international student must use directories, college search computer software, university catalogues and videotapes, attend international college fairs and correspond directly with professors and admissions personnel to get his/her questions answered. Once you start the process of researching possible undergraduate programs, you will be overwhelmed with choice as there are over 3,600 US universities. You and your family need to narrow that choice by compiling a list of factors important to you. The following information is meant to provide you with criteria you might want to consider. Not all factors are equally important to all students, so work out your own priorities.

ACADEMIC CONSIDERATIONS

Area of Concentration: It is not essential to declare the area of concentration you plan to undertake when you enter a university. If you have a definite degree objective, however, identify universities offering that field. A great many subjects are taught in every university, so choice of fields does not necessarily eliminate many institutions! In some fields, however, you may want to check out possible specialization (for example, many universities offer education but only a few offer physical education or special education).

Academic Emphasis: Get an idea of how the university emphasizes its curriculum. Is it pre-professional or liberal arts? Do the undergraduates dominate the campus or do the postgraduates? Many liberal arts colleges emphasize teaching and professor/student interaction, so the teacher to student ratio is quite low. Some research centered campuses are postgraduate dominated and undergraduates are secondary; however, facilities are often state of the art and professors are world-renowned.

Courses: Study the course catalogue and course descriptions. Many international students choose the US system because of the flexibility it offers through the liberal arts framework. Some degrees, however, are highly structured and universities dictate exact coursework. Prescribed coursework does not allow for student athletes who want to take a lighter load "in season" or double major options for the motivated student.

Rate of Return: The rate of return of students who continue after their first year gives an indication of the program difficulty level and student satisfaction level, so try to get more information on this.

Accreditation: Check that any university you are considering is regionally accredited. You can obtain more information on accreditation and the accreditation process from the Educational Advisory Service.

COST

Study the fee structure printed in most university prospectuses carefully and incorporate into your calculations the cost of room, food, tuition, fees, travel and other expenses for the full four years.

Private vs. State-Supported: US universities are either private or state-supported. In general the tuition fees at state-supported universities are less expensive than private universities. International students, however, are considered non-state residents and are charged "out-of-state" tuition rates, which are higher than in-state rates. Some state universities are limited in the percentage of out-of-state students they can enroll. Neither cost nor type of university is necessarily an indicator of the quality of the university, however.

Tuition: Note the cost of tuition and fees and be aware that tuition costs may rise each year.

Housing: Try to find out if housing is available for all four years of enrolment. If students are asked to find off-campus housing for one or two years, find out the cost of off-campus housing.

Meal Plan: Some universities mandate that first year students must purchase the meal plan, while other universities offer options within the meal plan including the number of meals per week or the meal halls used etc.

Financial Aid: Some US universities offer financial aid for international students (See [Appendix 2](#) for a sampling of universities). Check the amount of the average award, the percentage of financial aid awarded and the nature of the awards, whether they are need-based or academically based. It is possible that a university will allow an international student to be on a payment plan so that they can pay the tuition in installments.

ADMISSION DIFFICULTY

Because the US university system is so extensive, admission requirements vary greatly. This means that private universities and liberal arts colleges at the top of the selectivity indices receive enormous numbers of applications and accept only a small percentage, while other colleges can accept all applicants who meet their admission standards. Most directories will give information such as the average SAT score for the previous year's accepted students. In addition, directories and many college prospectuses will list the percentage of students accepted the previous year. Selectivity assessments using this type of data, however, tend to put weight on test admission scores that are only one part of an application and not necessarily the most important part.

SIZE AND LOCATION

Size: Many international students do not realize that US universities' enrolment size can range from 200-50,000. Some universities resemble small cities with their own post offices, grocery stores and shopping centers. Size ranges offer different opportunities and academic climates for the undergraduate. Some large campuses are located in very small rural towns where the students and the universities dominate the local economy. Other schools may be in large, densely populated urban areas with a very small enrolment.

Location: The climate in the US varies considerably from one region to another. Every region offers both urban and rural settings. Some areas present more security concerns than others. The undergraduate student candidate should be informed about security risks and precautions. Some international students have relatives living in the US and this may be a major influence on the choice of universities.

INSTITUTION PERSONALITY

Social Life: Some US universities have reputations as either social schools or very quiet academic schools. In addition, some schools may be known as "commuter schools," meaning that most students live off-campus and commute into classes, which affects the campus atmosphere. Potential undergraduates will want to know what the atmosphere is like at weekends on campus; if most students have cars, they might leave to go on road trips or back home to visit family every weekend and vacate the campus.

International Students: Some US universities enroll a substantial number of international students while others may only enroll one or two students. You may either be considered a very special person to get to know or you may have a built-in support group who can share your experiences.

Personality: All US universities will accept students of any race, color or creed. Many universities or colleges, however, were founded with a certain mission, whether to provide a religious atmosphere on campus, a single sex educational experience or a majority ethnic student population. Read university missions printed in college prospectuses carefully and decide if your goals match the goals of the campus. As well, all US universities will accept students of any age and the application process is usually the same for all students, regardless of age. However, some universities have services available for adult students or have larger populations of adult students, which may make the transition to student life easier.

Extracurricular Activities: US universities offer many opportunities for students to develop skills through extracurricular activities such as sports teams, academic clubs, university newspapers, drama productions and other rewarding programs.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Student Services: US universities cater to the needs of the student through services such as international student advisers, counseling services, legal aid services, housing offices, varied meal plans, health centers, tutoring facilities, and many other helpful services.

Academic Distinctions: Many US universities award academic distinctions to outstanding graduating seniors which often provide an incentive for students.

Internship or Overseas Study Programs: Many US universities have incorporated into their curriculum internship or overseas study programs.

Graduates: The job-placement success of a university's graduating seniors is one indication of the emphasis of the curriculum. Universities will tell prospective students the number of their graduates finding professional positions and the number accepted to postgraduate programmes.

Students with Disabilities: If you have special needs then you need to make sure that the college can accommodate you. Advise the admissions office of your disability early in the process and obtain information about facilities offered from the college's Office of Disabled Student Services. Find out what services are provided automatically and whether any extra costs will be incurred.

The Educational Advisory Service offers educational advisers, a library and a resource center to assist you in gathering the information you may need.

College Ratings and Rankings

by Glenn Kersten, January 2000

When it comes to colleges, nearly everyone has an opinion. Some base their opinion on the reputation of the school; some on personal experience; and others on current sports scores. As librarians, we like to think that we have more objective sources for evaluating colleges and universities.

It ain't necessarily so.

There is much research on the validity of numerical scores used to rank academic institutions. These studies reveal a number of problems:

- It is virtually impossible to quantify the *quality* of education.
- What is important to one college applicant may be meaningless to another.
- The existence of a ranking system encourages colleges to boost their scores by providing misleading, exaggerated, or downright incorrect information to the ratings services. (Almost all of the “hard” data used by college guides and rating sources is provided by the schools themselves, without independent confirmation.)
- It is not meaningful to evaluate entire institutions with a single numerical score. Even university *departments* vary from year to year with respect to faculty and funding, let alone the college as a whole.
- Ranking services often change their methodology, so that a college ranked number one last year could dive to tenth place this year, and vice versa. Cynics have noted that jumbling the rankings this way leads to increased sales of the ratings publication, compared to a listing that remains relatively static from year to year.
- Differences between the ranked positions may be statistically insignificant, but forcing them to be placed in an arbitrary scale exaggerates these differences. In other words, there may be little difference in quality between the schools ranked #2 and #20, but the uninformed consumer naturally thinks otherwise.
- Lists of “best” schools are worthless unless the judging criteria are specific, non-arbitrary, and clearly spelled out for the reader—and the



These criticisms indicate that there are serious problems with the current ratings methodology. But beyond that, what is the attitude of the general public toward ranking services?

True or False?

1. High school seniors rely heavily on college rating guides when selecting a school to attend.

False. The sources of information most frequently consulted (in rank order) include: parents, friends and classmates, students attending or soon to be attending colleges of interest, college brochures, and materials in high school guidance and career centers. Only those students from upper middle and upper class families tend to use these guides, and, even then, they place more emphasis on "human" sources of information. A 1997 survey of college freshmen released by the Higher Education Research Institute reported that, of the 251,232 freshmen surveyed, only 8.6 percent considered colleges' rankings in national magazines to be "very important" when selecting a college.

2. University administrators and admissions officers are relatively unconcerned about their school's standings in the ratings.

True. Although a few institutions are concerned enough about rankings to supply inaccurate information to guidebook and ratings publishers to boost their status, the evidence from various studies indicates that most are not particularly influenced by the school's rankings. (That situation may change if state legislators begin to tie school funding to ranking status, however. The January 1997 issue of *State Policy Reports*, a bulletin for state higher education policy makers, points out a correlation between school quality ratings and the return on investment that states receive for their support of public higher education. This newsletter even provides its own rankings for states with high and low rates of return.)

Red Herring Time?

You may well ask, if college ratings are mostly irrelevant, sometimes inaccurate, and have so little effect on the decision-making process for high school seniors, then why bother reviewing them? There are several reasons. For one thing, these services are *perceived* as important by the general public. This is clear from the huge sales of college ratings publications.



Another reason is the recent proliferation of sources. Not long ago, libraries had only a handful of ratings guides for comparison, including the *Gourman Report* and *Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges*. Lately, however, some national magazines have discovered that there is profit to be made in the college-bound market; among them, *U.S. News and World Report*, *Money Magazine*, *Time*,

Most importantly, many ratings do have merit, as long as prospective students are cautious about interpreting them.

In the end, college-bound students are looking for a quick, easy way to compare the thousands of schools available to them. Ratings services, though less influential than personal advice and campus visits, do provide a way to winnow the choices to a manageable number.

Print Sources

Education Rankings Annual. This Gale publication is a compilation of ratings from many different sources, including scholarly journals, college guides, government publications, newspapers, and popular magazines. The wide range of sources helps to insure that selective bias is avoided; in fact the editors have purposely excluded sources that have been widely criticized by academicians. Both current and "classic" studies are included, to give perspective. The introduction states that "there is no individual ranking in any area of education that should be considered THE definitive ranking. Rankings change and vary over time . . . [and] all rankings in the educational arena should be examined and compared with other available studies; they should not be judged in a vacuum." Some of the specific ratings include academic reputation, citation analysis, peer evaluations, distinguished alumni, student achievement in later life, admissions selectivity, application rates, test scores, tuition, faculty salaries, and library and computer facilities. The index conveniently lists, for each institution, all ratings which included the school. The focus is on U.S. universities, but it is unclear how many are involved overall. This source is expensive, but recommended.



The Gourman Report. This reference source, published annually since 1967, has received more criticism than perhaps any other source. The author steadfastly refuses to explain in detail how the ratings are determined, other than that colleges are rated in 10 different categories. None of the information is provided (directly, at least) by the colleges themselves, and no students or staff are interviewed, so the sources of information largely remain a mystery. Now the *Gourman Report* is being published by the prestigious Princeton Review, and according to an article in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* ("A Self-Published College Guide Goes Big-Time, and Educators Cry Foul," November 7, 1997, pp. A45-A46), critics are concerned that it will gain legitimacy. *GR* ranks more than 1,200 undergraduate colleges, and approximately 140 major disciplines; another edition similarly rates graduate and professional programs.

Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges. Frederick Rugg rates roughly 800 "quality four-year colleges" that offer bachelor's degrees, based largely on student input. Data from high school counselors and college admissions officers is also used. The ratings are provided for 80 majors; and for each major, the ratings are further broken down into "most selective, very selective, and selective." Ratings are simplistic and one-dimensional, but this guide is useful for those who prefer the opinions of students over those from "The Establishment."

devoted to ratings (followed by *Money Magazine*, *Time*, *Newsweek*, and even *Mother Jones*). The popularity of that issue surprised everyone. It is now the best-selling issue for the entire year, and it has been expanded to include an *America's Best Graduate Schools* edition. Rankings take into account geographic region, public versus private schools, liberal arts strength, and "specialty schools," as well as the traditional rating by major. This publisher has received almost as much criticism as the *Gourman Report* in recent years, partly because the rating methodology changes so frequently. The [publisher](#) also has a strong Web presence (<http://www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/corank.htm>).

Online Sources

[College and University Rankings](#). An excellent, comprehensive overview of college rating sources; particularly those available on the Internet. Includes a bibliography of cautionary notes about the precarious nature of rankings. Highly recommended.

<http://www.library.uiuc.edu/edx/rankings.htm>

"[Rankings and Ratings](#)," *Enrollment Management Review*, volume 13, issue 4 (Summer 1997). From College Board Online, a clear, readable summary of research on the influence of ratings on high school students and on colleges themselves.

<http://cbweb1.collegeboard.org/aes/emr/emrsu97/html/rank.html>

For Further Information

The American Freshman: National Norms for 1997. Higher Education Research Institute (HERI). 1998.

America's Best Colleges. 1999 ed. U.S. News & World Report.

Educational Rankings Annual. 1999 ed. Gale.

The Gourman Report: A Rating of Undergraduate Programs in American and International Universities, by Jack Gourman. 10th edition, 1998. Random House.

"The Quest for Quality in Higher Education," by Hal Hovey. *State Policy Reports*, v. 15, n. 2, Jan. 1997, pp. 2-24.

Rugg's Recommendations on the Colleges, by Frederick E. Rugg. 16th ed., 1999. Rugg's Recommendations.

Glenn Kersten is a Research Librarian at the Suburban Library System Reference Service.

Two-year colleges in the United States offer an alternative to the more traditional four-year bachelor's degree programmes, providing access to high quality post-secondary studies to many who might otherwise not continue their education. **It should be noted, however, that completing one's study at a two-year college IS NOT equivalent to obtaining a four-year bachelor's degree.**

Known as community, technical or junior colleges, these institutions offer study in a wide range of subjects to post-secondary students of all ages and academic intention, from those who simply wish to take a short course to those wishing to eventually pursue a bachelor's degree and beyond. In addition to educational flexibility, two-year colleges are also known for their affordability. Tuition costs are low for those living within the area "covered" by the college, as much of the funding for these colleges comes from the communities surrounding them, hence the term "community" college. Though costs are slightly higher for those coming from outside these districts, they are still relatively low in comparison to four-year colleges. Many students will also save money on living costs by living at home or with a relative.

Courses of Study

These institutions are often referred to as two-year colleges as this is the normal amount of time needed to complete the degree awarded at this level, known as an associate's degree. The **Associate of Arts (A.A.)** and the **Associate of Science (A.S.)** degrees are offered in a wide variety of liberal arts and science subjects designed to meet the requirements of the first two years of a baccalaureate degree. Degree requirements are established to ensure that students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to either continue toward a bachelor's degree, transferring for their final two years to an accredited four-year college or university, or to competitively enter the workforce.

Community colleges also offer occupational-technical programs designed to prepare students directly for employment or to assist those already employed to update their skills. The **Associate of Applied Science (A.A.S.)** degree is offered in vocational and technical areas such as business, industry and computer programming. Certificates of completion are also awarded in specific programs that require varying amounts of study.

In addition to academic and vocational degree programs, most two-year colleges offer programs to help students improve their basic academic skills and prepare them for lifelong learning. Adult education courses are offered to address the individual's and community's social, intellectual and recreational interests.

Admission Requirements and Procedures

Generally speaking, for admission to a two-year college one should have completed schooling up to Standard 10 (Grade 12) and achieved a senior certificate. For students who intend to transfer to a four-year college upon completion of an associate's degree, usually a minimum of a senior certificate with exemption will be required. Many colleges will also require that the student take the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) and, for non-native English speakers, the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Admission requirements and procedures will be similar to those for four-year

and university admission. One is the application deadline. Community college deadlines for fall entry can be anywhere between March and the day before classes start in August. Another difference is the open enrolment policy that most community colleges use. Open enrolment means that every applicant will be accepted into the institution. If an applicant has a minimal academic record, the community college might require you to take coursework designed to prepare you for more advanced coursework. Four-year universities may offer you pending admission and ask you to complete a semester or more of introductory coursework at a community college in order to fulfil admission requirements into the four-year institution. After completion of the required coursework, providing that you have done well at the community college, you will be admitted into a regular degree programme at the four-year university.

Admission requirements for non-degree courses may vary widely, so it is necessary to check with the individual college directly or to find their information in the reference library of EAS.

Transferring

Many students with an associate degree from a regionally accredited two-year college will transfer to an accredited four-year bachelor's programme in the third or "junior" year. This process is made possible through articulation agreements between two-year and four-year colleges, which guarantees that courses taken at an accredited two-year college will transfer into a four-year college. Articulation agreements are more likely to occur between institutions within a state system (i.e. a community college in Ohio and a four-year in New York are less likely to have a reciprocal agreement than two institutions in the same state). You can find out about any articulation agreements that exist by writing to the two-year or four-year colleges that you are interested in attending. You can also check the resources in the EAS reference library.

International students wishing to attend a two-year college with the intention of transferring to a four-year bachelor's degree program should be very careful about planning their entire undergraduate program in advance. Some four-year colleges have strict guidelines for transferring which will require some degree of forward planning. One should consider such factors as whether or not the two-year college has an articulation agreement with four-year colleges; what requirements will the four-year institution have for accepting transfer credits; and what level of grades will be required for transferring.

Housing

The majority of students attending two-year colleges live in the local community and commute to classes from home. Although some institutions guarantee on-campus accommodation for foreign students, the great majority of colleges do not provide student housing; though there may be a housing office or a foreign student adviser to assist you in finding local accommodation.

Costs and Financial Aid

There is no financial aid for foreign students to attend two-year colleges as they are state and locally supported, though some colleges will offer a number of athletic

Tuition and fees will vary, but are normally under \$4000 per academic year.

For more information on two-year colleges consult *Peterson's Guide to Two-Year Colleges* (Peterson's, annual) or *Peterson's Guide to Vocational and Technical Schools - East & West* (Peterson's, annual) both of which are available in the EAS reference library.

The Internet has a wealth of information on two-year colleges. The following web sites may be useful in your search:

Peterson's:<http://www.petersons.com>

The American Association of Community Colleges: <http://www.aacc.nche.edu>

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

This is the recommended timeframe for applying to universities but it is often the case that students complete the process in a much shorter time period.

18 months prior to enrolment - consider, research, and prepare the following:

- What are your reasons for wanting to study in the USA?
- Think about the type of college or university you would like to attend and begin researching suitable institutions.
- How much money can your family provide each year for your education? Will you need financial aid?
- Find out application/financial aid deadlines. This will affect when you will need to take the standardized tests required for admission. The tests should be taken in advance of submitting university applications.
- Find out which tests are required by your prospective universities and register to sit the test.

TEST	DATE (exact dates are on the back of the current bulletin)	REGISTRATION DEADLINE
<u>SAT I & SAT II</u> You cannot sit the SAT I and SAT II on the same day.	October November December January May June	September October October December March April

All of the available SAT II subject tests are not given on all dates, so check the latest bulletin.

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is held many times every month. (Contact Sylvan Prometric at 011 713 0600 for more information)

18 month countdown to enrolment - complete the following (months indicated are estimates)

November

- In the months before you begin your 12th grade year register for the SAT exams you will need to take.

December

- Take the SAT I and register for the SAT II in January.

April

- Register to take the SAT's again if necessary in May and June. Avoid taking the SAT's in November during trials, or during exam terms.

August

- Write to universities for application and financial aid forms/catalogues.
- Obtain test registration forms to sit the SAT I and, if necessary, the SAT II. Begin preparing for the tests.

September

- Request an official transcript from your school for each university to which you wish to apply.
- Request letters of recommendation from your teachers.
- Prepare application essays.
- Double check that transcripts/references have been sent to your chosen universities.
- Sit the appropriate admissions test(s).

November - April

- Submit completed applications in time for university deadlines.

April - June

- Letters of acceptance or rejection will arrive. Decide which university to attend, notify them of your decision, complete and return any forms they require.
- Send letters of regret to those universities you reject.
- Organize finances (arrange to transfer funds to a US bank, make sure you have funds for travel and expenses on arrival).

July

- Apply to US Embassy for visa on receipt of the I-20 from the US university you will attend.
- Make travel arrangements.
- Contact the International Student Office at your university with details of your arrival plans.
- Obtain the EAS guide to living and studying in the US, and pre-departure information.

ABOUT UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSIONS

What are the SAT I, the SAT II and the ACT? Will I have to take these tests? How do I register?

What is the TOEFL? If English is not my first language, but I have studied in Britain, will I have to take it? How do I register?

What is a transcript and how do I get one?

Do I need to hold A Levels or Higher Grades to get into US universities?

Will the American system recognize my Independent Board Exam or Scottish Qualifications Agency Higher National Diploma?

How do I find out which college offers the subject I want to study?

In South Africa I'm considered a "mature student." Can I still apply to US universities?

Which are the top American colleges? Where can I get a list?

What are the SAT I, the SAT II and the ACT? Will I have to take these tests? How do I register?

The Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) I, SAT II and the American College Test (ACT) are standardized assessment tests which form a part of the admissions process in most American universities. **ONLY** the SAT I and the SAT II are offered in South Africa. The SAT I is a general aptitude test which covers maths and verbal skills, and SAT IIs are specialized subject tests. Each university to which you apply will have its own policy with respect to these tests, so you will need to check each catalogue or consult a college guide for current requirements. The tests are held in various regions of South Africa 6 times a year. However, as these are US tests for admission into US universities the administration is done by organizations in the US. Test registration and preparation materials are available from EAS but please note that you cannot register through our office. On-line registration for the SAT is also available with a valid credit card (<http://www.collegeboard.org>). Internet access and computerized test preparation software are available at EAS's Technology Center.

What is the TOEFL? If English is not my first language, but I have studied in Britain, will I have to take it? How do I register?

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) is a standardized test designed to evaluate the language proficiency of a non-native English speaker. Generally, it is required of applicants whose country of origin is not English speaking. If this applies to you, but you have studied in an English-speaking country, you will need to allow time in the application process to correspond with admissions officers about the TOEFL. They may waive the requirement if you do well enough in your high school English and on the SAT exams. The test is held in South Africa and you can obtain test registration and preparation materials from EAS but please note that you will need to register via Sylvan Prometric (011 713 0600).

What is a transcript and how do I get one?

has taken and the grade or mark achieved in the class. These grades are averaged numerically to compute the student's GPA or Grade Point Average. While the senior certificates alone may be sufficient for some universities, others may ask for additional information such as the syllabi for your exams, which you will have to obtain from your school or college.

Do I need to hold a senior certificate with exemption to get into US universities?

Most US universities will expect you to hold the senior certificate with exemption, just as South African universities require them.

Will the American system recognize my Independent Board Exam or Scottish Qualifications Agency Higher National Diploma?

There is no official method of equating the US and South African education systems. However, Independent Board Exams are generally recognized as being of a more difficult standard. The Scottish Higher's are considered professional qualifications rather than academic qualifications.

How do I find out which college offers the subject I want to study?

The EAS reference library contains comprehensive directories such as Peterson's *Four-Year Colleges* or Barron's *Profiles of American Colleges*, which have universities, listed by subjects (majors). Peterson's *Applying to Colleges and Universities in the United States* also provides lists of universities by broad subject area, this book should have been included with this package. Software such as *Career and College Quest* can also help you draw up a list of universities according to subject area. However, you should note that at the undergraduate level, you are enrolling in a liberal arts degree program, which is more wide-ranging than the more focused South Africa degree programs. While you want to choose a college that has strengths in your preferred subject, keep in mind that you will not pursue that subject to the exclusion of all others. An American degree concentrates in one academic area, yet draws from several other areas in order to provide a broad base of knowledge for the graduate. While you will spend much of your time in the last two years concentrating on your major field of study, during your first two years, you will also be required to take classes in a range of fields outside your major. Known as general education requirements these classes will cover maths, sciences, humanities, social sciences, languages and possibly physical education!

Common subjects like engineering, English, history or biology are offered by most universities in the US, which could leave you with a list of over 1,000 institutions from which to choose. When choosing a college look at the total picture of the university's undergraduate program: academic, geographic, social and financial and determine the criteria most important to you. Read the section Choosing a US University in this guide for suggested criteria. You will also want to talk to people who have been educated in America for a personal view of study in the US.

In South Africa I'm considered a "mature student." Can I still apply to US

Yes. There is no age limit on applying to US universities and many universities have a sizeable proportion of students who are starting as "non-traditional" age students i.e. older than 17/18 years of age. The admissions office should treat you the same as any other applicant and there is no official designation of mature students. However, you may want to consider factors such as the size of the "non-traditional" student population, as well as housing and special services for older students to be sure that you are comfortable in the university environment. If you have dependents, you will need to factor their needs into the costs of attending the university. University international offices can usually provide information on childcare and schools in the local area.

Which are the top American colleges? Where can I get a list?

There is no "official" ranking of American institutions. There is no direct US Government control over the 3,000-plus universities and colleges, and no "official" body to make such a ranking. Unofficial rankings do exist and can often be found in the popular press but they generally do not rank all the institutions in the US. The EAS does not compile ranked lists of colleges but our reference library contains some of these unofficial rankings which you are welcome to consult in-person. Some are available on the Internet. In the past rankings have been found to be unreliable so the wise student does not use them as a shortcut to doing thorough research into which college is right for him/her. If you do decide to apply to one of the "top colleges" make sure you also apply to less challenging schools as well to ensure yourself a place at an American university. If you are an average or below average student, it is unlikely that you will be accepted at the more competitive institutions.

Educational Advisory Service United States Consulate, Durban

The Educational Advisory Service (EAS) of the United States Consulate, Durban is funded by the US Government to provide information and advice on US education. The EAS houses a resource center including a reference library and Advising Technology Center which offers computer search packages, Internet access and test preparation software. Resources for finding athletic scholarships include several directories concerning colleges that offer athletics and/or scholarships, international academic standards for athletics ability, recruitment guidelines, data on team records, coaches and college facilities, test preparation guides for reference use or for sale, and application forms for the SAT and TOEFL.

Students and parents are welcome to use these resources Monday through Wednesday from 8:00 am to 4:00pm. Should you wish to speak to an Educational Adviser in person, telephone hours are Mondays through Wednesdays *only* from 8 to 4pm. The phone number is (031) 3044737 extension 116.

EAS hosts group information sessions each Monday at 12 noon and again on Tuesdays at 8am. It is essential to attend one of these programs if you are interested in attending an American institution.

Useful Resources in our Library:

SAT and TOEFL study Guides

Peterson's Guide to Four Year Colleges and Universities

Peterson's Guide to 2 Year Colleges in the United States

Career and College Quest: A database of 4-year colleges and universities in the United States.

Plus the library contains over 350 videos of U.S. colleges and universities as well as many more printed and computer based information resources on study in the United States.

UNDERGRADUATE FEES AT US COLLEGES/UNIVERSITIES

The following tables offer a selection of college and university tuition fees and living expenses to give you an indication of the cost variations. Fees are for the academic year 1998/99. Please note that this is not a comprehensive list of colleges/universities in the US and you should always confirm costs with the universities.

Total Tuition & Living Costs Under \$18,000

STATE	UNIVERSITY	Tuition	Living Costs	Total Costs
New Mexico	New Mexico Junior College	1030	6605	7635
Oklahoma	Connors State College	3144	4604	7748
Oklahoma	Southeastern Oklahoma State University	4229	5211	9440
Nebraska	Bellevue University	3850	5900	9750
North Dakota	Dickinson State University	5256	5688	10944
California	Golden Gate University	8472	3520	11992
North Dakota	University of North Dakota	6774	6043	12817
Mississippi	University of Mississippi	6155	6672	12827
New Mexico	New Mexico Highlands University	7081	5859	12940
Louisiana	Louisiana State University A & M College	7402	6488	13890
Alabama	University of Alabama	7216	7177	14393
Michigan	Eastern Michigan University	8420	6420	14840
North Carolina	University of North Carolina - Asheville	8310	6611	14921
Arizona	Northern Arizona University	8076	7116	15192
South Carolina	University of South Carolina - Aiken	7734	7690	15424
New York	SUNY at Purchase	8924	7823	16747
Hawaii	University of Hawaii - Manoa	9526	7304	16830
Minnesota	University of Minnesota - Morris	9464	7572	17036
Arizona	Arizona State University	9110	8025	17135
Michigan	Michigan Technological University	10203	6985	17188
Colorado	University of Northern Colorado	9682	7508	17190
South Dakota	University of Sioux Falls	11100	6150	17250
Washington, DC	Corcoran School of Art	13440	3904	17344
Arkansas	Lyon College	10380	7056	17436
Texas	University of Houston - Houston	8277	9250	17527
Missouri	Central Methodist College	10620	7280	17900

STATE	UNIVERSITY	Tuition	Living Costs	Total Costs
Hawaii	Hawaii Pacific University	7920	10250	18170
Kentucky	Kentucky Wesleyan College	9830	8710	18540
Maine	University of Maine	11631	7134	18765
Kansas	Bethel College	10840	8048	18888
Montana	Caroll College	11490	7640	19130
South Dakota	Augustana College	13640	5770	19410
California	Fresno Pacific University	12672	7062	19734
Nebraska	Dana College	12126	7740	19866
Maryland	University of Maryland - College Park	11222	9008	20230
Iowa	Central College	13388	7454	20842
Tennessee	King College	10550	10319	20869
South Carolina	Coker College	14155	7120	21275
Rhode Island	University of Rhode Island	12756	8887	21643
Texas	Southwestern University	14600	7046	21646
Idaho	Albertson College	15880	5850	21730
Pennsylvania	Duquesne University	14699	7558	22257
Minnesota	St. Olaf College	17140	5360	22500
West Virginia	West Virginia Wesleyan College	16750	6894	23644
Indiana	St. Mary's College	16274	7657	23931
Maryland	Mount St. Mary's College	16100	8050	24150
Illinois	Rockford College	15500	9065	24565
New Hampshire	New England College	17102	7562	24664
Virginia	Randolph Macon Woman's College	16710	8210	24920

Total Tuition & Living Costs Over \$25,000

STATE	UNIVERSITY	Tuition	Living Costs	Total Costs
Tennessee	University of the South	18350	6665	25015
California	Marymount College	14665	10464	25129
Georgia	Oglethorpe University	16860	8440	25300
Florida	Eckerd College	17685	7615	25300
Florida	Florida Institute of Technology	16735	8770	25505
West Virginia	Bethany College	17688	7831	25519
Iowa	Grinnell College	18446	7214	25660
Wisconsin	Beloit College	19770	6066	25836

Washington	Whitman College	20300	7000	27300
Vermont	Bennington College	26400	1100	27500
Oregon	Willamette University	21100	6640	27740
Ohio	Denison University	21060	6690	27750
Minnesota	Carleton College	22611	6059	28670
Colorado	Colorado College	20880	7870	28750
Ohio	Kenyon College	23670	5580	29250
California	California Institute of Technology	19116	10534	29650
New York	Parson's School of Design	19798	10410	30208
Florida	University of Miami	20418	10431	30849
Louisiana	Tulane University	23024	8010	31034
New York	Vassar College	23000	8230	31230
Massachusetts	Smith College	21856	9440	31296
Maine	Bowdoin College	23895	8055	31950
Massachusetts	Brandeis University	24020	8370	32390
Washington, DC	George Washington University	22625	9790	32415
California	Stanford University	22110	10334	32444
Pennsylvania	University of Pennsylvania	23254	9476	32730
Pennsylvania	Bryn Mawr College	22270	10770	33040
Illinois	University of Chicago	23514	9575	33089
Rhode Island	Brown University	24332	8838	33170
Massachusetts	Amherst College	24152	9198	33350
New Jersey	Princeton University	23820	9670	33490
Massachusetts	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	24050	9500	33550
New York	Columbia University-Columbia College	24144	9447	33591
Massachusetts	Harvard & Radcliffe Colleges	23618	10032	33650
Connecticut	Yale University	23780	9912	33692
New Hampshire	Dartmouth College	23910	11437	35347

Source: The International Student Handbook of US Colleges 1999 Edition. New York: College Entrance Examination Board, 1998.

APPENDIX II:

A SAMPLING OF US COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WITH FINANCIAL AID FOR INTERNATIONAL UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

The following tables are by no means comprehensive; many more US colleges and universities offer financial aid to international students for undergraduate study. The data given is based on **averages** and is meant only to demonstrate that full funding is rare. Information given in the tables is **not** guaranteed and you should contact the universities to confirm availability of financial aid for international students.

Table one is sorted Alphabetically by name of Institution

Table two is sorted by Amount of Award

AMERICAN COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES WITH FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS - 2001

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER'L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Abilene Christian University	TX	\$18,435	170	80	\$6,305
Adelphi University	NY	\$25,000	145	62	\$8,471
Adrian College	MI	\$21,045	10	9	\$5,776
Agnes Scott College	GA	\$27,195	65	34	\$16,011
Alabama State University	AL	\$12,150	24	5	\$7,053
Albertson College of Idaho	ID	\$22,800	15	9	\$7,444
Albion College	MI	\$25,616	10	10	\$10,250
Alfred University	NY	\$29,790	17	12	\$13,550
Alleghany College	PA	\$28,320	20	19	\$12,886
Alma College	MI	\$25,404	6	6	\$8,500
American University	DC	\$31,521	679	78	\$12,328
Amherst College	MA	\$35,880	59	44	\$28,397
Andrews University	MI	\$20,626	253	175	\$5,728
Arizona State University	AZ	\$17,955	1188	512	\$5,297
Art Institute of Atlanta	GA	\$20,681	26	3	\$5,480
Assumption College	MA	\$27,240	23	8	\$15,458
Austin College	TX	\$23,318	22	21	\$12,584
Baker University	KS	\$20,330	11	8	\$6,921
Barclay College	KS	\$13,315	2	2	\$5,000
Bard College	NY	\$34,370	69	43	\$18,014
Bates College	ME	\$33,450	52	39	\$28,060
Beaver College	PA	\$26,070	41	21	\$7,638
Belhaven College	MS	\$21,280	26	26	\$6,118
Bellarmine College	KY	\$20,090	14	9	\$7,955
Beloit College	WI	\$28,172	121	98	\$10,624
Benedictine College	KS	\$22,100	29	17	\$8,198
Bennington College	VT	\$31,550	40	39	\$19,128
Bentley College	MA	\$29,160	330	23	\$5,615
Berea College	KY	\$5,680	100	100	\$20,467
Bethany College	KS	\$18,269	8	5	\$6,300

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Bethany Lutheran College	MN	\$21,891	8	4	\$6,597
Bethel College	IN	\$18,300	36	33	\$6,138
Blackburn College	IL	\$13,595	14	7	\$5,321
Bloomsburg U. of PA	PA	\$16,139	34	34	\$5,881
Bluefield College	VA	\$16,825	15	15	\$8,136
Boston Conservatory	MA	\$31,715	43	24	\$8,394
Bowdin College	ME	\$34,550	36	28	\$27,255
Bradford College	MA	\$26,250	48	3	\$18,167
Brandeis University	MA	\$35,380	163	109	\$20,680
Brenau University	GA	\$21,725	23	20	\$9,354
Brevard College	NC	\$20,780	33	20	\$8,120
Bridgewater College	VA	\$24,000	11	11	\$12,708
Bryn Mawr College	PA	\$35,474	93	56	\$21,010
Bucknell University	PA	\$32,930	54	25	\$16,265
Butler University	IN	\$27,530	54	22	\$5,852
California Inst. of Technology	CA	\$30,375	80	55	\$24,054
Calvin College	MI	\$20,745	289	84	\$7,142
Carieton College	MN	\$30,865	29	22	\$9,004
Carroll College	WI	\$22,140	48	43	\$6,500
Castleton State College	VT	\$17,514	1	1	\$9,000
Cedar Crest College	PA	\$25,755	14	11	\$9,935
Central Methodist College	MO	\$19,260	20	11	\$5,374
Central Michigan University	MI	\$15,590	135	46	\$5,625
Central Washington University	WA	\$18,409	176	39	\$6,273
Chestnut Hill College	PA	\$24,991	9	9	\$11,127
Clark University	MA	\$29,185	222	142	\$11,667
Clarkson University	NY	\$30,900	74	39	\$7,020
Cleveland Institute of Art	OH	\$22,711	24	23	\$8,765
Cleveland Institute of Music	OH	\$26,215	33	33	\$10,212
Coastal Carolina University	SC	\$18,160	84	12	\$6,000
Coe College	IO	\$26,322	51	45	\$9,706
Colby College	ME	\$34,300	72	41	\$28,485
Colgate University	NY	\$33,550	69	60	\$29,272
College of Mount St. Joseph	OH	\$20,700	77	1	\$5,000
College of Santa Fe	NM	\$23,482	3	3	\$10,000

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTERVIEWS STDS	# ADEQ STDS	AVERAGE AWARD
College of St. Benedict	MN	\$23,713	61	38	\$10,500
College of St. Catherine	MN	\$24,657	91	75	\$7,382
College of St. Elizabeth	NJ	\$24,370	47	14	\$13,895
College of the Atlantic	ME	\$27,224	4	4	\$5,885
College of Wooster	OH	\$28,600	131	112	\$15,486
Colorado Christian University	CO	\$17,560	19	19	\$7,531
Colorado College	CO	\$32,828	21	21	\$21,138
Colorado School of Mines	CO	\$31,566	94	3	\$25,000
Columbia U.-Columbia College	NY	\$35,748	165	33	\$25,957
Columbia U.-Sch of Engineering	NY	\$35,823	145	19	\$24,662
Concordia College	NY	\$24,350	59	32	\$7,562
Concordia College:Moorhead	MN	\$20,880	105	9	\$7,875
Connecticut College	CT	\$33,485	125	45	\$29,874
Cornell College	10	\$26,850	16	16	\$19,151
Cornell University	NY	\$34,693	978	57	\$25,000
Cottey College	MO	\$16,150	32	25	\$10,347
Covenant College	GA	\$22,630	26	16	\$12,672
Cumberiand College	KY	\$16,196	22	21	\$8,904
Curtis Institute of Music	PA	\$1,045	57	27	\$6,957
Dartmouth College	NH	\$35,321	160	131	\$26,358
Davidson College	NC	\$31,628	51	45	\$25,364
Denison University	OH	\$30,610	88	86	\$16,126
DePauw University	IN	\$28,424	18	12	\$11,837
Dickinson College	PA	\$33,075	20	15	\$23,656
Drake University	10	\$24,335	177	90	\$7,070
Drexel University	PA	\$29,273	587	275	\$7,129
Duquesne University	PA	\$23,424	201	60	\$5,158
E. Stroudsburg U. of PA	PA	\$15,878	29	23	\$8,676
Earlham College	IN	\$27,156	45	39	\$14,562
Eastern Mennonite University	VA	\$20,520	50	38	\$11,148
Eckerd College	FL	\$26,820	188	155	\$6,500
Edinboro U. of Pennsylvania	PA	\$12,356	120	77	\$5,810
Elizabethtown College	PA	\$26,000	44	44	\$13,261
Elmhurst College	IL	\$22,050	28	16	\$8,015
Elmira College	NY	\$31,820	56	21	\$19,523

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Emmanuel College	MA	\$26,432	72	21	\$6,691
Emory & Henry College	VA	\$20,772	9	8	\$8,864
Fairfield University	CT	\$33,965	62	17	\$26,679
Fairleigh Dickinson University	NJ	\$23,698	260	55	\$12,824
Florida Institute of Technology	FL	\$28,040	527	185	\$7,120
Franciscan U. of Steubenville	OH	\$20,440	87	87	\$5,193
Franklin and Marshall College	PA	\$32,360	118	91	\$23,777
Franklin College	IN	\$20,990	7	5	\$6,598
Franklin Pierce College	NH	\$29,600	32	31	\$7,000
Freed-Hardeman University	TN	\$15,758	35	24	\$8,071
Fresno Pacific University	CA	\$21,552	39	24	\$9,067
George Fox University	OR	\$25,210	21	12	\$11,255
George Washington University	DC	\$35,828	521	86	\$11,520
Gettysburg College	PA	\$31,331	35	32	\$23,289
Gordon College	MA	\$24,920	41	38	\$12,045
Goshen College	IN	\$20,460	102	72	\$8,645
Goucher College	MD	\$31,580	19	10	\$8,688
Graceland University	IO	\$20,075	118	118	\$11,514
Grand Canyon University	AZ	\$16,972	52	27	\$5,308
Greensboro College	NC	\$20,215	12	12	\$10,288
Greenville College	IL	\$20,298	15	6	\$5,575
Grinnell College	IO	\$28,120	101	98	\$17,530
Gustavus Adolphus College	MN	\$24,475	37	34	\$9,457
Hamilton College	NY	\$34,690	53	41	\$25,153
Hampshire College	MA	\$34,459	54	40	\$24,032
Hampton-Sydney College	VA	\$24,799	1	1	\$20,000
Hanover College	IN	\$18,400	38	33	\$7,618
Harding University	AR	\$14,063	155	143	\$8,396
Hartwick College	NY	\$32,935	23	20	\$17,182
Harvard/Radcliffe Colleges	MA	\$36,200	462	57	\$26,810
Harvey Mudd College	CA	\$33,305	18	5	\$25,031
Hendrix College	AR	\$19,170	11	4	\$8,400
Hiram College	OH	\$29,926	26	26	\$5,738
Hobart & William Smith College	NY	\$33,560	27	21	\$17,036
Holy Names College	CA	\$25,906	26	6	\$5,000

		COST	STDS		AWARD
Hood College	MD	\$27,020	39	35	\$14,692
Huntingdon College	AL	\$20,860	29	13	\$9,188
Illinois Institue of Technology	IL	\$27,135	261	155	\$7,609
Illinois Wesleyan University	IL	\$26,860	45	40	\$12,950
Iowa Wesleyan College	IO	\$19,985	22	19	\$5,680
Ithaca College	NY	\$29,210	104	85	\$13,372
Jacksonville University	FL	\$22,910	90	83	\$9,669
Jarvis Christian College	TX	\$15,020	18	5	\$10,120
Juniata College	PA	\$25,770	36	29	\$11,069
Kent State University	OH	\$16,272	209	34	\$9,833
Kenyon College	OH	\$32,000	16	15	\$13,812
Kettering University	MI	\$20,966	140	8	\$6,000
King College	TN	\$24,625	39	33	\$8,044
King's College	PA	\$25,190	19	14	\$5,464
Knox College	IL	\$28,185	131	125	\$14,119
Kutztown University of PA	PA	\$16,818	117	50	\$5,605
Lake Forest College	IL	\$27,240	88	77	\$15,181
Lawrence University	WI	\$28,596	84	76	\$15,290
Lebanon Valley College of PA	PA	\$25,840	27	14	\$8,077
Lehigh University	PA	\$32,785	199	18	\$25,512
Lenoir-Rhyne College	NC	\$19,576	1	1	\$5,000
Lewis & Clark College	OR	\$30,772	92	58	\$8,776
Liberty University	VA	\$16,350	195	63	\$7,279
Lincoln Memorial University	TN	\$15,750	44	21	\$5,000
Linfield College	OR	\$25,970	42	30	\$10,146
Lock Haven U. of Pennsylvania	PA	\$16,178	46	34	\$7,875
Long Island U.-Southampton	NY	\$27,790	29	19	\$14,394
Louisiana State University	LA	\$14,252	714	618	\$5,093
Lourdes College	OH	\$12,960	2	2	\$9,041
Luther College	IO	\$25,230	133	126	\$8,942
Lyon College	AR	\$18,385	34	29	\$8,818
Macalester College	MN	\$29,516	201	197	\$19,025
Maharishi U. of Management	IO	\$25,230	90	81	\$10,312
Manchester College	IN	\$21,970	31	31	\$10,967
Manhattan School of Music	NY	\$32,579	108	51	\$10,431

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTERV STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Mannes College of Music	NY	\$27,300	62	31	\$7,129
Marquette University	WI	\$26,222	171	115	\$8,045
Mary Baldwin College	VA	\$24,960	18	18	\$5,000
Marycrest International Univ.	10	\$20,215	32	16	\$5,523
Marymount College	CA	\$26,764	151	6	\$8,333
Maryville College	TN	\$24,209	29	17	\$6,539
Marywood University	PA	\$25,287	35	28	\$6,500
Mass. Inst. Of Technology	MA	\$36,100	355	200	\$26,462
McKendree College	IL	\$23,885	42	2	\$9,562
McMunry University	TX	\$17,791	12	9	\$9,040
Mercer University	GA	\$24,271	197	103	\$9,795
Messiah College	PA	\$24,250	46	42	\$10,589
Michigan State University	MI	\$20,002	721	201	\$6,875
Michigan Technological Univ.	MI	\$18,057	255	65	\$6,410
Middlebury College	VT	\$34,315	165	133	\$22,838
Millikin University	IL	\$23,747	15	8	\$8,527
Mills College	CA	\$28,804	15	2	\$11,950
Millsaps College	MS	\$23,453	10	3	\$5,200
Monmouth College	IL	\$22,220	55	51	\$11,113
Monterey Inst. of Inter'l Studie	CA	\$29,063	8	6	\$7,666
Montreat College	NC	\$20,194	8	8	\$8,415
Moravian College	PA	\$27,604	19	11	\$12,778
Morningside College	10	\$21,200	43	30	\$7,290
Mount Holyoke	MA	\$34,270	233	233	\$25,334
Mount Marty College	SD	\$17,086	4	4	\$10,847
Mount Mercy College	10	\$21,410	16	10	\$8,876
Mount St. Mary's College	MD	\$25,860	23	14	\$19,423
N.C. School of the Arts	NC	\$17,120	20	7	\$5,773
N.C. State University	NC	\$18,630	172	42	\$11,987
Nebraska Wesleyan University	NE	\$20,610	6	1	\$6,292
New England College	NH	\$26,420	38	21	\$8,439
New Sch U:Eugene Lang Coll	NY	\$31,541	24	7	\$7,943
New York University	NY	\$35,012	846	17	\$9,000
North Park University	IL	\$26,755	94	58	\$9,068
Northeastern University	MA	\$31,275	854	7	\$6,285

		COST	STDS		AWARD
Northern Arizona University	AZ	\$16,929	191	47	\$6,433
Northland College	WI	\$22,425	17	14	\$9,199
Oakland City University	IN	\$18,660	3	3	\$9,223
Oberlin College	OH	\$32,819	170	127	\$17,468
Occidental College	CA	\$33,088	50	20	\$20,984
Oglethorpe University	GA	\$27,345	21	18	\$12,172
Ohio Wesleyan University	OH	\$29,600	217	200	\$15,484
Old Dominion University	VA	\$20,366	348	34	\$6,500
Olivet College	MI	\$19,729	55	55	\$8,500
Otterbein College	OH	\$23,730	46	4	\$8,750
Ouachita Baptist University	AR	\$16,200	71	64	\$5,793
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	LA	\$11,306	2	2	\$9,500
Our Lady of the Lake University	TX	\$19,642	18	12	\$5,027
Pacific University	OR	\$25,451	22	6	\$6,916
Parsons School of Design	NY	\$31,368	694	280	\$5,063
Paul Quinn College	TX	\$11,200	12	3	\$6,413
Piedmont College	GA	\$17,450	1	1	\$7,741
Pine Manor College	MA	\$23,844	47	6	\$10,373
Polytechnic University	NY	\$25,165	55	55	\$9,633
Pomona College	CA	\$34,790	28	16	\$29,687
Potomac St. Coll. Of WVA U.	WV	\$13,292	1	1	\$6,032
Princeton University	NJ	\$35,595	234	150	\$26,666
Queens College	NC	\$19,190	51	26	\$6,958
Quincy University	IL	\$21,610	21	21	\$10,540
Randolph-Macon College	VA	\$24,505	15	5	\$11,036
Randolph-Macon Women's Coll	VA	\$27,540	48	47	\$15,606
Reed College	OR	\$34,190	34	12	\$19,105
Regis College	MA	\$27,325	27	10	\$11,012
Rhodes College	TN	\$27,702	23	13	\$6,100
Rockhurst University	MO	\$23,990	28	18	\$11,820
Rocky Mountain College	MT	\$18,160	20	20	\$6,148
Rollins College	FL	\$32,968	78	33	\$14,596
Saginaw Valley State University	MI	\$13,782	130	74	\$5,037
Saint Mary's College	IN	\$26,699	13	4	\$5,800
Salem College	NC	\$25,480	28	17	\$8,544

		COST	STDS		AWARD
San Francisco Cstv. Music	CA	\$29,330	22	15	\$8,761
School of Visual Arts	NY	\$26,795	364	42	\$5,384
Schreiner College	TX	\$22,095	8	6	\$11,951
Scripps College	CA	\$32,059	19	6	\$13,416
Seattle Pacific University	WA	\$23,625	79	19	\$7,523
Seton Hill College	PA	\$23,215	12	8	\$6,750
Shepherd College	WV	\$11,761	32	27	\$5,554
Sheridan College	WY	\$8,674	9	4	\$5,184
Shippensburg U. of PA	PA	\$16,570	32	24	\$9,046
Shorter College	GA	\$18,990	28	28	\$7,416
Siena College	NY	\$21,930	9	1	\$7,000
Sierra Nevada College	NV	\$19,300	19	13	\$9,983
Simon's Rock College of Bard	MA	\$33,750	2	2	\$14,025
Simpson College	IO	\$22,790	14	5	\$13,164
Slippery Rock U. of PA	PA	\$15,628	185	163	\$5,431
Smith College	MA	\$35,154	162	98	\$25,044
Southern Illinois University	IL	\$13,973	639	8	\$5,000
Southern Methodist University	TX	\$28,599	137	86	\$14,351
Southern Vermont College	VT	\$18,090	1	1	\$12,000
Southwest Baptist University	MO	\$15,656	16	13	\$11,458
Southwestern College	KS	\$18,835	35	34	\$6,119
Southwestern University	TX	\$24,989	8	5	\$8,800
Spring Hill College	AL	\$24,812	18	4	\$8,725
St. Anselm College	NH	\$27,850	9	5	\$15,106
St. Bonaventure University	NY	\$24,480	23	21	\$15,721
St. Gregory's University	OK	\$16,077	72	19	\$6,955
St. John Fisher College	NY	\$22,390	25	4	\$9,725
St. John's College	NM	\$33,121	8	8	\$20,000
St. John's University	MN	\$23,670	40	21	\$9,382
St. John's University	NY	\$28,280	359	95	\$8,627
St. Lawrence University	NY	\$33,550	56	52	\$27,579
St. Louis University	MO	\$25,398	365	153	\$9,061
St. Mary's University	TX	\$21,184	107	43	\$7,482
St. Norbert College	WI	\$23,750	72	55	\$12,006
St. Olaf College	MN	\$25,730	44	44	\$12,142

		COST	STDS		AWARD
St. Vincent College	PA	\$22,649	13	11	\$7,749
Stanford University	CA	\$35,099	301	185	\$22,532
Sterling College	VT	\$21,100	2	2	\$6,000
Stetson University	FL	\$26,675	147	117	\$11,693
Susquehanna University	PA	\$29,955	11	5	\$12,438
Swarthmore College	PA	\$33,004	103	54	\$27,172
Sweet Briar College	VA	\$26,190	10	6	\$11,041
Tabor College	KS	\$18,950	6	6	\$6,582
Taylor University	IN	\$22,560	42	34	\$9,161
Teikyo Post University	CT	\$22,450	76	5	\$11,560
Tennessee Wesleyan College	TN	\$14,900	52	12	\$6,217
Texas A&M University	TX	\$18,142	510	258	\$6,272
Thiel College	PA	\$19,228	47	15	\$8,222
Transylvania University	KY	\$22,300	8	8	\$12,281
Trinity Christian College	IL	\$20,901	10	8	\$8,494
Trinity College	CT	\$34,200	49	39	\$26,339
Trinity College of Vermont	VT	\$22,820	9	1	\$8,000
Tri-State University	IN	\$19,250	92	90	\$5,333
Tufts University	MA	\$35,168	376	7	\$25,842
Tulane University	LA	\$34,188	243	79	\$15,759
U. of Alabama-Huntsville	AL	\$13,116	188	71	\$5,102
U. of Alaska-Anchorage	AK	\$17,939	240	83	\$5,588
U. of Colorado-Boulder	CO	\$25,005	371	65	\$8,914
U. of Hawaii-Manoa	HI	\$17,854	587	265	\$5,867
U. of Missouri-Kansas City	MO	\$20,542	210	30	\$6,000
U. of N. Carolina-Asheville	NC	\$15,423	35	12	\$7,292
U. of N. Carolina-Wilmington	NC	\$16,694	64	17	\$8,329
U. of Northern Iowa	IO	\$16,090	161	47	\$5,745
U. of Redlands	CA	\$30,171	53	37	\$7,278
U. of Southern Mississippi	MS	\$12,092	200	55	\$5,086
U. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	WI	\$16,145	124	78	\$5,883
Union College	KY	\$17,270	25	17	\$8,755
Union College	NY	\$33,129	53	20	\$22,823
United States International U.	CA	\$22,590	152	102	\$5,054
University of Akron	OH	\$18,898	183	38	\$7,141

		COST	STDS		AWARD
University of Arizona	AZ	\$18,672	1052	73	\$7,152
University of Arkansas	AR	\$16,900	378	192	\$8,296
University of Charleston	WV	\$20,030	51	36	\$10,884
University of Chicago	IL	\$35,528	204	19	\$25,572
University of Denver	CO	\$27,624	232	60	\$13,640
University of Evansville	IN	\$23,670	153	85	\$7,957
University of Kentucky	KY	\$14,998	403	92	\$5,913
University of Maine-Augusta	ME	\$8,607	1	1	\$7,500
University of Maine-Farmington	ME	\$15,686	32	21	\$6,217
University of Maine-Machias	ME	\$15,455	25	15	\$6,000
University of Maine-Orona	ME	\$19,432	145	59	\$10,420
University of Miami	FL	\$33,388	718	146	\$12,975
University of New Hampshire	NH	\$23,702	64	10	\$8,000
University of Puget Sound	WA	\$30,235	24	11	\$8,909
University of Richmond	VA	\$26,470	103	42	\$15,143
University of Rochester	NY	\$33,748	238	85	\$8,329
University of Saint Thomas	MN	\$24,100	56	56	\$8,622
University of Scranton	PA	\$29,302	32	25	\$15,744
University of Southern Maine	ME	\$19,058	2	2	\$6,000
University of St. Francis	IL	\$21,300	6	6	\$8,833
University of the Arts	PA	\$25,050	51	20	\$5,000
University of the Ozarks	AR	\$16,386	84	75	\$11,100
University of the South	TN	\$27,425	27	26	\$16,598
University of Vermont	VT	\$26,497	73	11	\$9,727
Ursinus College	PA	\$30,350	29	25	\$7,200
Valparaiso University	IN	\$24,066	96	18	\$5,606
Vassar College	NY	\$33,520	105	76	\$24,669
Virginia Military Institute	VA	\$22,490	33	4	\$19,830
Virginia Wesleyan University	VA	\$22,850	14	4	\$11,936
Wabash College	IN	\$25,555	45	36	\$18,969
Waldorf College	10	\$21,797	50	50	\$8,790
Walsh University	OH	\$19,220	20	10	\$7,761
Wartburg College	10	\$22,665	75	75	\$8,331
Washington and Lee University	VA	\$25,900	53	33	\$18,394
Washington College	MD	\$28,340	64	50	\$9,792

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER'L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Washington University	MO	\$35,070	323	111	\$15,546
Wellesley College	MA	\$34,634	130	47	\$27,083
Wells College	NY	\$19,400	12	7	\$7,192
Wesleyan College	GA	\$26,500	17	10	\$15,000
Wesleyan University	CT	\$34,965	127	101	\$33,992
Western Maryland College	MD	\$26,120	75	73	\$10,735
Westminister College	MO	\$19,970	23	23	\$12,189
Westmont College	CA	\$30,786	10	6	\$12,986
Whitman College	WA	\$28,832	23	10	\$22,120
Whittier College	CA	\$30,990	56	18	\$13,868
Willamette University	OR	\$30,018	24	18	\$14,300
William Jewel College	MO	\$21,250	21	21	\$15,514
Williams College	MA	\$32,970	115	67	\$31,715
Wilson College	PA	\$21,425	26	16	\$12,046
Wisconsin Lutheran College	WI	\$20,656	13	13	\$12,530
Wittenberg University	OH	\$18,760	63	60	\$8,333
Yale University	CT	\$36,910	355	46	\$21,714

Source: International Student Handbook, College Board 2001

Database compiled by: Dr. Marti Thomson, REAC-East Asia Pacific

FINANCIAL AID FOR UNDERGRADUATE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS – 2001

(Listed by maximum Amount Awarded)

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER'L # STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Wesleyan University	CT	\$34,965	127	101	\$33,992
Williams College	MA	\$32,970	115	67	\$31,715
Connecticut College	CT	\$33,485	125	45	\$29,874
Pomona College	CA	\$34,790	28	16	\$29,687
Colgate University	NY	\$33,550	69	60	\$29,272
Colby College	ME	\$34,300	72	41	\$28,485
Amherst College	MA	\$35,880	59	44	\$28,397
Bates College	ME	\$33,450	52	39	\$28,060
St. Lawrence University	NY	\$33,550	56	52	\$27,579
Bowdin College	ME	\$34,550	36	28	\$27,255
Swarthmore College	PA	\$33,004	103	54	\$27,172
Wellesley College	MA	\$34,634	130	47	\$27,083
Harvard/Radcliffe Colleges	MA	\$36,200	462	57	\$26,810
Fairfield University	CT	\$33,965	62	17	\$26,679
Princeton University	NJ	\$35,595	234	150	\$26,666
Mass. Inst_ Of Technology	MA	\$36,100	355	200	\$26,462
Dartmouth College	NH	\$35,321	160	131	\$26,358
Trinity College	CT	\$34,200	49	39	\$26,339
Columbia U.-Columbia College	NY	\$35,748	165	33	\$25,957
Tufts University	MA	\$35,168	376	7	\$25,842
University of Chicago	IL	\$35,528	204	19	\$25,572
Lehigh University	PA	\$32,785	199	18	\$25,512
Davidson College	NC	\$31,628	51	45	\$25,364
Mount Holyoke	MA	\$34,270	233	233	\$25,334
Hamilton College	NY	\$34,690	53	41	\$25,153
Smith College	MA	\$35,154	162	98	\$25,044
Harvey Mudd College	CA	\$33,305	18	5	\$25,031
Cornell University	NY	\$34,693	978	57	\$25,000
Colorado School of Mines	CO	\$31,566	94	3	\$25,000
Vassar College	NY	\$33,520	105	76	\$24,669
Columbia U.-Sch of Engineering	NY	\$35,823	145	19	\$24,662

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	π INTERV STDS	π AIDED STDS	AVERAGE AWARD
California Inst. of Technology	CA	\$30,375	80	55	\$24,054
Hampshire College	MA	\$34,459	54	40	\$24,032
Franklin and Marshall College	PA	\$32,360	118	91	\$23,777
Dickinson College	PA	\$33,075	20	15	\$23,656
Gettysburg College	PA	\$31,331	35	32	\$23,289
Middlebury College	VT	\$34,315	165	133	\$22,838
Union College	NY	\$33,129	53	20	\$22,823
Stanford University	CA	\$35,099	301	185	\$22,532
Whitman College	WA	\$28,832	23	10	\$22,120
Yale University	CT	\$36,910	355	46	\$21,714
Colorado College	CO	\$32,828	21	21	\$21,138
Bryn Mawr College	PA	\$35,474	93	56	\$21,010
Occidental College	CA	\$33,088	50	20	\$20,984
Brandeis University	MA	\$35,380	163	109	\$20,680
Berea College	KY	\$5,680	100	100	\$20,467
St. John's College	NM	\$33,121	8	8	\$20,000
Hampton-Sydney College	VA	\$24,799	1	1	\$20,000
Virginia Military Institute	VA	\$22,490	33	4	\$19,830
Elmira College	NY	\$31,820	56	21	\$19,523
Mount St. Mary's College	MD	\$25,860	23	14	\$19,423
Cornell College	IO	\$26,850	16	16	\$19,151
Bennington College	VT	\$31,550	40	39	\$19,128
Reed College	OR	\$34,190	34	12	\$19,105
Macalester College	MN	\$29,516	201	197	\$19,025
Wabash College	IN	\$25,555	45	36	\$18,969
Washington and Lee University	VA	\$25,900	53	33	\$18,394
Bradford College	MA	\$26,250	48	3	\$18,167
Bard College	NY	\$34,370	69	43	\$18,014
Grinnell College	IO	\$28,120	101	98	\$17,530
Oberlin College	OH	\$32,819	170	127	\$17,468
Hartwick College	NY	\$32,935	23	20	\$17,182
Hobart & William Smith College	NY	\$33,560	27	21	\$17,036
University of the South	TN	\$27,425	27	26	\$16,598
Bucknell University	PA	\$32,930	54	25	\$16,265
Denison University	OH	\$30,610	88	86	\$16,126

		COST	STDS		AWARD
Agnes Scott College	GA	\$27,195	65	34	\$16,011
Tulane University	LA	\$34,188	243	79	\$15,759
University of Scranton	PA	\$29,302	32	25	\$15,744
St. Bonaventure University	NY	\$24,480	23	21	\$15,721
Randolph-Macon Women's Coll	VA	\$27,540	48	47	\$15,606
Washington University	MO	\$35,070	323	111	\$15,546
William Jewel College	MO	\$21,250	21	21	\$15,514
College of Wooster	OH	\$28,600	131	112	\$15,486
Ohio Wesleyan University	OH	\$29,600	217	200	\$15,484
Assumption College	MA	\$27,240	23	8	\$15,458
Lawrence University	WI	\$28,596	84	76	\$15,290
Lake Forest College	IL	\$27,240	88	77	\$15,181
University of Richmond	VA	\$26,470	103	42	\$15,143
St. Anselm College	NH	\$27,850	9	5	\$15,106
Wesleyan College	GA	\$26,500	17	10	\$15,000
Hood College	MD	\$27,020	39	35	\$14,692
Rollins College	FL	\$32,968	78	33	\$14,596
Eadham College	IN	\$27,156	45	39	\$14,562
Long Island U.-Southampton	NY	\$27,790	29	19	\$14,394
Southern Methodist University	TX	\$28,599	137	86	\$14,351
Willamette University	OR	\$30,018	24	18	\$14,300
Knox College	IL	\$28,185	131	125	\$14,119
Simon's Rock College of Bard	MA	\$33,750	2	2	\$14,025
College of St. Elizabeth	NJ	\$24,370	47	14	\$13,895
Whittier College	CA	\$30,990	56	18	\$13,868
Kenyon College	OH	\$32,000	16	15	\$13,812
University of Denver	CO	\$27,624	232	60	\$13,640
Alfred University	NY	\$29,790	17	12	\$13,550
Scripps College	CA	\$32,059	19	6	\$13,416
Ithaca College	NY	\$29,210	104	85	\$13,372
Elizabethtown College	PA	\$26,000	44	44	\$13,261
Simpson College	IO	\$22,790	14	5	\$13,164
Westmont College	CA	\$30,786	10	6	\$12,986
University of Miami	FL	\$33,388	718	146	\$12,975
Illinois Wesleyan University	IL	\$26,860	45	40	\$12,950

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# STUDS	AVERAGE AWARD	
Alleghany College	PA	\$28,320	20	19	\$12,886
Faideigh Dickinson University	NJ	\$23,698	260	55	\$12,824
Moravian College	PA	\$27,604	19	11	\$12,778
Bridgewater College	VA	\$24,000	11	11	\$12,708
Covenant College	GA	\$22,630	26	16	\$12,672
Austin College	TX	\$23,318	22	21	\$12,584
Wisconsin Lutheran College	WI	\$20,656	13	13	\$12,530
Susquehanna University	PA	\$29,955	11	5	\$12,438
Bethany College	WV	\$28,404	49	43	\$12,339
American University	DC	\$31,521	679	78	\$12,328
Transylvania University	KY	\$22,300	8	8	\$12,281
Westminister College	MO	\$19,970	23	23	\$12,189
Oglethorpe University	GA	\$27,345	21	18	\$12,172
St. Olaf College	MN	\$25,730	44	44	\$12,142
Wilson College	PA	\$21,425	26	16	\$12,046
Gordon College	MA	\$24,920	41	38	\$12,045
St. Norbert College	WI	\$23,750	72	55	\$12,006
Southern Vermont College	VT	\$18,090	1	1	\$12,000
N.C. State University	NC	\$18,630	172	42	\$11,987
Schreiner College	TX	\$22,095	8	6	\$11,951
Mills College	CA	\$28,804	15	2	\$11,950
Virginia Wesleyan University	VA	\$22,850	14	4	\$11,936
DePauw University	IN	\$28,424	18	12	\$11,837
Rockhurst University	MO	\$23,990	28	18	\$11,820
Stetson University	FL	\$26,675	147	117	\$11,693
Clark University	MA	\$29,185	222	142	\$11,667
Teikyo Post University	CT	\$22,450	76	5	\$11,560
George Washington University	DC	\$35,828	521	,86	\$11,520
Graceland University	IO	\$20,075	118	118	\$11,514
Southwest Baptist University	MO	\$15,656	16	13	\$11,458
George Fox University	OR	\$25,210	21	12	\$11,255
Eastern Mennonite University	VA	\$20,520	50	38	\$11,148
Chestnut Hill College	PA	\$24,991	9	9	\$11,127
Monmouth College	IL	\$22,220	55	51	\$11,113
University of the Ozarks	AR	\$16,386	84	75	\$11,100

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTERV STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Juniata College	PA	\$25,770	36	29	\$11,069
Sweet Briar College	VA	\$26,190	10	6	\$11,041
Randolph-Macon College	VA	\$24,505	15	5	\$11,036
Regis College	MA	\$27,325	27	10	\$11,012
Manchester College	IN	\$21,970	31	31	\$10,967
University of Charleston	WV	\$20,030	51	36	\$10,884
Mount Marty College	SD	\$17,086	4	4	\$10,847
Western Maryland College	MD	\$26,120	75	73	\$10,735
Beloit College	WI	\$28,172	121	98	\$10,624
Messiah College	PA	\$24,250	46	42	\$10,589
Quincy University	IL	\$21,610	21	21	\$10,540
College of St. Benedict	MN	\$23,713	61	38	\$10,500
Manhattan School of Music	NY	\$32,579	108	51	\$10,431
University of Maine-Orono	ME	\$19,432	145	59	\$10,420
Pine Manor College	MA	\$23,844	47	6	\$10,373
Cottey College	MO	\$16,150	32	25	\$10,347
Maharishi U. of Management	10	\$25,230	90	81	\$10,312
Greensboro College	NC	\$20,215	12	12	\$10,288
Albion College	MI	\$25,616	10	10	\$10,250
Cleveland Institute of Music	OH	\$26,215	33	33	\$10,212
Linfield College	OR	\$25,970	42	30	\$10,146
Jarvis Christian College	TX	\$15,020	18	5	\$10,120
College of Santa Fe	NM	\$23,482	3	3	\$10,000
Sierra Nevada College	NV	\$19,300	19	13	\$9,983
Cedar Crest College	PA	\$25,755	14	11	\$9,935
Kent State University	OH	\$16,272	209	34	\$9,833
Mercer University	GA	\$24,271	197	103	\$9,795
Washington College	MD	\$28,340	64	50	\$9,792
University of Vermont	VT	\$26,497	73	11	\$9,727
St. John Fisher College	NY	\$22,390	25	4	\$9,725
Coe College	10	\$26,322	51	45	\$9,706
Jacksonville University	FL	\$22,910	90	83	\$9,669
Polytechnic University	NY	\$25,165	55	55	\$9,633
McKendree College	IL	\$23,885	42	2	\$9,562
Our Lady of Holy Cross College	LA	\$11,306	2	2	\$9,500

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	FINANCIAL COST	# INTERVIEWS	# ADEP AVERAGE	AWARD
Gustavus Adolphus College	MN	\$24,475	37	34	\$9,457
St. John's University	MN	\$23,670	40	21	\$9,382
Brenau University	GA	\$21,725	23	20	\$9,354
Oakland City University	IN	\$18,660	3	3	\$9,223
Northland College	WI	\$22,425	17	14	\$9,199
Huntingdon College	AL	\$20,860	29	13	\$9,188
Taylor University	IN	\$22,560	42	34	\$9,161
North Park University	IL	\$26,755	94	58	\$9,068
Fresno Pacific University	CA	\$21,552	39	24	\$9,067
St. Louis University	MO	\$25,398	365	153	\$9,061
Shippensburg U. of PA	PA	\$16,570	32	24	\$9,046
Lourdes College	OH	\$12,960	2	2	\$9,041
McMuney University	TX	\$17,791	12	9	\$9,040
Carleton College	MN	\$30,865	29	22	\$9,004
New York University	NY	\$35,012	846	17	\$9,000
Castleton State College	VT	\$17,514	1	1	\$9,000
Luther College	IO	\$25,230	133	126	\$8,942
U. of Colorado-Boulder	CO	\$25,005	371	65	\$8,914
University of Puget Sound	WA	\$30,235	24	11	\$8,909
Cumberland College	KY	\$16,196	22	21	\$8,904
Mount Mercy College	IO	\$21,410	16	10	\$8,876
Emory & Henry College	VA	\$20,772	9	8	\$8,864
University of St. Francis	IL	\$21,300	6	6	\$8,833
Lyon College	AR	\$18,385	34	29	\$8,818
Southwestern University	TX	\$24,989	8	5	\$8,800
Waldorf College	IO	\$21,797	50	50	\$8,790
Lewis & Clark College	OR	\$30,772	92	58	\$8,776
Cleveland Institute of Art	OH	\$22,711	24	23	\$8,765
San Francisco Cstv. Music	CA	\$29,330	22	15	\$8,761
Union College	KY	\$17,270	25	17	\$8,755
Otterbein College	OH	\$23,730	46	4	\$8,750
Spring Hill College	AL	\$24,812	18	4	\$8,725
Goucher College	MD	\$31,580	19	10	\$8,688
E. Stroudsburg U. of PA	PA	\$15,878	29	23	\$8,676
Goshen College	IN	\$20,460	102	72	\$8,645

		COST	STDS		AWARD
St. John's University	NY	\$28,280	359	95	\$8,627
University of Saint Thomas	MN	\$24,100	56	56	\$8,622
Salem College	NC	\$25,480	28	17	\$8,544
Millikin University	IL	\$23,747	15	8	\$8,527
Alma College	MI	\$25,404	6	6	\$8,500
Olivet College	MI	\$19,729	55	55	\$8,500
Trinity Christian College	IL	\$20,901	10	8	\$8,494
Adelphi University	NY	\$25,000	145	62	\$8,471
New England College	NH	\$26,420	38	21	\$8,439
Montreat College	NC	\$20,194	8	8	\$8,415
Hendrix College	AR	\$19,170	11	4	\$8,400
Harding University	AR	\$14,063	155	143	\$8,396
Boston Conservatory	MA	\$31,715	43	24	\$8,394
Marymount College	CA	\$26,764	151	6	\$8,333
Wittenberg University	OH	\$18,760	63	60	\$8,333
Wartburg College	IO	\$22,665	75	75	\$8,331
University of Rochester	NY	\$33,748	238	85	\$8,329
U. of N. Carolina-Wilmington	NC	\$16,694	64	17	\$8,329
University of Arkansas	AR	\$16,900	378	192	\$8,296
Thiel College	PA	\$19,228	47	15	\$8,222
Benedictine College	KS	\$22,100	29	17	\$8,198
Bluefield College	VA	\$16,825	15	15	\$8,136
Brevard College	NC	\$20,780	33	20	\$8,120
Lebanon Valley College of PA	PA	\$25,840	27	14	\$8,077
Freed-Hardeman University	TN	\$15,758	35	24	\$8,071
Marquette University	WI	\$26,222	171	115	\$8,045
King College	TN	\$24,625	39	33	\$8,044
Elmhurst College	IL	\$22,050	28	16	\$8,015
University of New Hampshire	NH	\$23,702	64	10	\$8,000
Trinity College of Vermont	VT	\$22,820	9	1	\$8,000
University of Evansville	IN	\$23,670	153	85	\$7,957
Bellarmino College	KY	\$20,090	14	9	\$7,955
New Sch U:Eugene Lang Coll	NY	\$31,541	24	7	\$7,943
Concordia College:Moorhead	MN	\$20,880	105	9	\$7,875
Lock Haven U. of Pennsylvania	PA	\$16,178	46	34	\$7,875

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	FINANCIAL COST	# AWARD # AIDS STDS	# AIDS STDS	AVERAGE AWARD
Walsh University	OH	\$19,220	20	10	\$7,761
St. Vincent College	PA	\$22,649	13	11	\$7,749
Piedmont College	GA	\$17,450	1	1	\$7,741
Monterey Inst. of Inter'l Studie	CA	\$29,063	8	6	\$7,666
Beaver College	PA	\$26,070	41	21	\$7,638
Hanover College	IN	\$18,400	38	33	\$7,618
Illinois Institue of Technology	IL	\$27,135	261	155	\$7,609
Concordia College	NY	\$24,350	59	32	\$7,562
Colorado Christian University	CO	\$17,560	19	19	\$7,531
Seattle Pacific University	WA	\$23,625	79	19	\$7,523
University of Maine-Augusta	ME	\$8,607	1	1	\$7,500
St. Mary's University	TX	\$21,184	107	43	\$7,482
Albertson College of Idaho	ID	\$22,800	15	9	\$7,444
Shorter College	GA	\$18,990	28	28	\$7,416
College of St. Catherine	MN	\$24,657	91	75	\$7,382
U. of N. Carol ina-Asheville	NC	\$15,423	35	12	\$7,292
Morningside College	IO	\$21,200	43	30	\$7,290
Liberty University	VA	\$16,350	195	63	\$7,279
U. of Redlands	CA	\$30,171	53	37	\$7,278
Ursinus College	PA	\$30,350	29	25	\$7,200
Wells College	NY	\$19,400	12	7	\$7,192
University of Arizona	AZ	\$18,672	1052	73	\$7,152
Calvin College	MI	\$20,745	289	84	\$7,142
University of Akron	OH	\$18,898	183	38	\$7,141
Drexel University	PA	\$29,273	587	275	\$7,129
Mannes College of Music	NY	\$27,300	62	31	\$7,129
Florida Institute of Technology	FL	\$28,040	527	185	\$7,120
Drake University	IO	\$24,335	177	90	\$7,070
Alabama State University	AL	\$12,150	24	5	\$7,053
Clarkson University	NY	\$30,900	74	39	\$7,020
Franklin Pierce College	NH	\$29,600	32	31	\$7,000
Siena College	NY	\$21,930	9	1	\$7,000
Queens College	NC	\$19,190	51	26	\$6,958
Curtis Institute of Music	PA	\$1,045	57	27	\$6,957
St. Gregory's University	OK	\$16,077	72	19	\$6,955

		COST	SIDS		AWARD
Baker University	KS	\$20,330	11	8	\$6,921
Pacific University	OR	\$25,451	22	6	\$6,916
Michigan State University	MI	\$20,002	721	201	\$6,875
Seton Hill College	PA	\$23,215	12	8	\$6,750
Emmanuel College	MA	\$26,432	72	21	\$6,691
Franklin College	IN	\$20,990	7	5	\$6,598
Bethany Lutheran College	MN	\$21,891	8	4	\$6,597
Tabor College	KS	\$18,950	6	6	\$6,582
Maryville College	TN	\$24,209	29	17	\$6,539
Eckerd College	FL	\$26,820	188	155	\$6,500
Marywood University	PA	\$25,287	35	28	\$6,500
Carroll College	WI	\$22,140	48	43	\$6,500
Old Dominion University	VA	\$20,366	348	34	\$6,500
Northern Arizona University	AZ	\$16,929	191	47	\$6,433
Paul Quinn College	TX	\$11,200	12	3	\$6,413
Michigan Technological Univ.	MI	\$18,057	255	65	\$6,410
Abilene Christian University	TX	\$18,435	170	80	\$6,305
Bethany College	KS	\$18,269	8	5	\$6,300
Nebraska Wesleyan University	NE	\$20,610	6	1	\$6,292
Northeastern University	MA	\$31,275	854	7	\$6,285
Central Washington University	WA	\$18,409	176	39	\$6,273
Texas A&M University	TX	\$18,142	510	258	\$6,272
University of Maine-Farmington	ME	\$15,686	32	21	\$6,217
Tennessee Wesleyan College	TN	\$14,900	52	12	\$6,217
Rocky Mountain College	MT	\$18,160	20	20	\$6,148
Bethel College	IN	\$18,300	36	33	\$6,138
Southwestern College	KS	\$18,835	35	34	\$6,119
Belhaven College	MS	\$21,280	26	26	\$6,118
Rhodes College	TN	\$27,702	23	13	\$6,100
Potomac St. Coll. Of WVA U.	WV	\$13,292	1	1	\$6,032
Sterling College	VT	\$21,100	2	2	\$6,000
Kettering University	MI	\$20,966	140	8	\$6,000
U. of Missouri-Kansas City	MO	\$20,542	210	30	\$6,000
University of Southern Maine	ME	\$19,058	2	2	\$6,000
Coastal Carolina University	SC	\$18,160	84	12	\$6,000

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER'L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
University of Maine-Machias	ME	\$15,455	25	15	\$6,000
University of Kentucky	KY	\$14,998	403	92	\$5,913
College of the Atlantic	ME	\$27,224	4	4	\$5,885
U. of Wisconsin-Eau Claire	WI	\$16,145	124	78	\$5,883
Bloomsburg U. of PA	PA	\$16,139	34	34	\$5,881
U. of Hawaii-Manoa	HI	\$17,854	587	265	\$5,867
Butler University	IN	\$27,530	54	22	\$5,852
Edinboro U. of Pennsylvania	PA	\$12,356	120	77	\$5,810
Saint Mary's College	IN	\$26,699	13	4	\$5,800
Ouachita Baptist University	AR	\$16,200	71	64	\$5,793
Adrian College	MI	\$21,045	10	9	\$5,776
N.C. School of the Arts	NC	\$17,120	20	7	\$5,773
U. of Northern Iowa	IO	\$16,090	161	47	\$5,745
Hiram College	OH	\$29,926	26	26	\$5,738
Andrews University	MI	\$20,626	253	175	\$5,728
Iowa Wesleyan College	IO	\$19,985	22	19	\$5,680
Central Michigan University	MI	\$15,590	135	46	\$5,625
Bentley College	MA	\$29,160	330	23	\$5,615
Valparaiso University	IN	\$24,066	96	18	\$5,606
Kutztown University of PA	PA	\$16,818	117	50	\$5,605
U. of Alaska-Anchorage	AK	\$17,939	240	83	\$5,588
Greenville College	IL	\$20,298	15	6	\$5,575
Shepherd College	WV	\$11,761	32	27	\$5,554
Marycrest International Univ.	IO	\$20,215	32	16	\$5,523
Art Institute of Atlanta	GA	\$20,681	26	3	\$5,480
King's College	PA	\$25,190	19	14	\$5,464
Slippery Rock U. of PA	PA	\$15,628	185	163	\$5,431
School of Visual Arts	NY	\$26,795	364	42	\$5,384
Central Methodist College	MO	\$19,260	20	11	\$5,374
Tri-State University	IN	\$19,250	92	90	\$5,333
Blackburn College	IL	\$13,595	14	7	\$5,321
Grand Canyon University	AZ	\$16,972	52	27	\$5,308
Arizona State University	AZ	\$17,955	1188	512	\$5,297
Millsaps College	MS	\$23,453	10	3	\$5,200
Franciscan U. of Steubenville	OH	\$20,440	87	87	\$5,193

COLLEGE NAME	STATE	ANNUAL COST	# INTER'L STDS	# AIDED	AVERAGE AWARD
Sheridan College	WY	\$8,674	9	4	\$5,184
Duquesne University	PA	\$23,424	201	60	\$5,158
U. of Alabama-Huntsville	AL	\$13,116	188	71	\$5,102
Louisiana State University	LA	\$14,252	714	618	\$5,093
U. of Southern Mississippi	MS	\$12,092	200	55	\$5,086
Parsons School of Design	NY	\$31,368	694	280	\$5,063
United States International U.	CA	\$22,590	152	102	\$5,054
Saginaw Valley State University	MI	\$13,782	130	74	\$5,037
Our Lady of the Lake University	TX	\$19,642	18	12	\$5,027
Holy Names College	CA	\$25,906	26	6	\$5,000
University of the Arts	PA	\$25,050	51	20	\$5,000
Mary Baldwin College	VA	\$24,960	18	18	\$5,000
College of Mount St. Joseph	OH	\$20,700	77	1	\$5,000
Lenoir-Rhyne College	NC	\$19,576	1	1	\$5,000
Lincoln Memorial University	TN	\$15,750	44	21	\$5,000
Southern Illinois University	IL	\$13,973	639	8	\$5,000
Barclay College	KS	\$13,315	2	2	\$5,000

Source: International Student Handbook, College Board 2001

Database compiled by: Dr. Marti Thomson, REAC-East Asia Pacific

Application Essay Tips

Your application essay is the most important essay you will ever write and probably the most difficult. The essay must demonstrate multiple facets of your personality and is often the only tool admissions officers use to determine whether or not you have what it takes to study at a particular university.

To help you with the process, EssayEdge.com prepared a series of tips to help you brainstorm topics, select a topic, and write the essay. Unfortunately, writing an excellent application essay is not formulaic; we cannot simply give you a list of instructions and guarantee you will write an excellent essay on your first try. However, with practice and determination, you should be able to write an excellent essay. To view this document online go to: www.essayedge.com

Brainstorming Topics

The most important part of your essay is the subject matter. You should expect to devote about 1-2 weeks simply to brainstorming ideas. To begin brainstorming a subject idea consider the following points. From brainstorming, you may find a subject you had not considered at first.

- What are your major accomplishments, and why do you consider them accomplishments? Do not limit yourself to accomplishments you have been formally recognized for since the most interesting essays often are based on accomplishments that may have been trite at the time but become crucial when placed in the context of your life.
- Does any attribute, quality, or skill distinguish you from everyone else? How did you develop this attribute?
- Consider your favorite books, movies, works of art, etc. Have these influenced your life in a meaningful way? Why are they your favorites?
- What was the most difficult time in your life, and why? How did your perspective on life change as a result of the difficulty?
- Have you ever struggled mightily for something and succeeded? What made you successful?
- Have you ever struggled mightily for something and failed? How did you respond?
- Of everything in the world, what would you most like to be doing right now? Where would you most like to be? Who, of everyone living and dead, would you most like to be with? These questions should help you realize what you love most.
- Have you experienced a moment of epiphany, as if your eyes were opened to something you were previously blind to?
- What is your strongest, most unwavering personality trait? Do you

friends characterize you? What would they write about if they were writing your admissions essay for you?

- What have you done outside of the classroom that demonstrates qualities sought after by universities? Of these, which means the most to you?
- What are your most important extracurricular or community activities? What made you join these activities? What made you continue to contribute to them?
- What are your dreams of the future? When you look back on your life in thirty years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What people, things, and accomplishments do you need? How does this particular university fit into your plans for the future?

If these questions cannot cure your writer's block, consider the following exercises:

1. Ask for Help from Parents, Friends, Colleagues, etc.

If you cannot characterize yourself and your personality traits do not automatically leap to mind, ask your friends to write a list of your five most salient personality traits. Ask your friends why they chose the ones they did. If an image of your personality begins to emerge, consider life experiences that could illustrate the particular traits.

2. Consider your Childhood

While admissions officers are not interested in reading about your childhood and are more interested in the last 2-4 years of your life, you might consider events of your childhood that inspired the interests you have today. Interests that began in childhood may be the most defining parts of your life, even if you recently lost interest. For instance, if you were interested in math since an early age and now want to study medicine, you might incorporate this into your medical school admissions essay. Analyze the reasons for your interests and how they were shaped from your upbringing.

3. Consider your Role Models

Many applicants do not have role models and were never greatly influenced by just one or two people. However, for those of you who have role models and actually aspire to become like certain people, you may want to incorporate a discussion of that person and the traits you admired into your application essay.

4. Read Sample Admissions Essays

Before you sat down to write a poem, you would certainly read past poets. Before writing a book of philosophy, you would consider past philosophers. In the same way, we recommend reading sample admissions essays to understand what topics other applicants chose. EssayEdge.com maintains an archive of over 100 free sample admissions essays.

5. Goal Determination

Life is short. Why do you want spend 2-6 years of your life at a particular college, graduate school, or professional school? How is the degree necessary to the fulfillment of your goals? When considering goals, think broadly. Few people would be satisfied with just a career. How else will your education fit your needs and lead you to a fulfilling life?

surprised. Coming up with an idea is difficult and requires time. Actually consider the questions and exercises above. Without a topic you feel passionate about, without one that brings out the defining aspects of you personality, you risk falling into the trap of sounding like the 90 percent of applicants who will write boring admissions essays. The only way to write a unique essay is to have experiences that support whatever topic you come up with. Whatever you do, don't let the essay stress you out. Have fun with the brainstorming process. You might discover something about yourself you never consciously realized.

Selecting an Essay Topic

Having completed step one, you should now have a rough idea of the elements you wish to include in your essay, including your goals, important life experiences, research experience, diversifying features, spectacular nonacademic accomplishments, etc. You should also now have an idea of what impression you want to make on the admissions officers. We should remark that at this stage, undergraduate applicants have a large advantage over graduate school applicants. Whereas nobody questions a high school student's motivation to attend college, graduate and professional school applicants must directly address in their essays their desire to study their selected field.

You must now confront the underlying problem of the admissions essay. You must now consider topics that will allow you to synthesize your important personal characteristics and experiences into a coherent whole while simultaneously addressing your desire to attend a specific institution. While most admissions essays allow great latitude in topic selection, you must also be sure to answer the questions that were asked of you. Leaving a lasting impression on someone who reads 50-100 essays a day will not be easy, but we have compiled some guidelines to help you get started. With any luck, one or two topics, with small changes, will allow you to answer application questions for 5-7 different colleges, although admissions officers do appreciate essays that provide convincing evidence of how an applicant will fit into a particular academic environment. You should at least have read the college's webpage, admissions catalog, and have an understanding of the institution's strengths.

Consider the following questions before proceeding:

- Have you selected a topic that describes something of personal importance in your life, with which you can use **vivid personal experiences** as supporting details?
- Is your topic a gimmick? That is, do you plan to write your essay in iambic pentameter or make it funny. You should be very, very careful if you are planning to do this. We recommend strongly that you do not do this. Almost always, this is done poorly and is not appreciated by the admissions committee. Nothing is worse than not laughing or not being amused at something that was written to be funny or amusing.
- Will your topic only repeat information listed elsewhere on your application? If so, pick a new topic. Don't mention GPAs or standardized test scores in your essay.
- Can you offer vivid supporting paragraphs to your essay topic? If you cannot easily think of supporting paragraphs with concrete examples,

- Can you fully answer the question asked of you? Can you address and elaborate on all points within the specified word limit, or will you end up writing a poor summary of something that might be interesting as a report or research paper? If you plan on writing something technical for college admissions, make sure you truly can back up your interest in a topic and are not merely throwing around big scientific words. Unless you convince the reader that you actually have the life experiences to back up your interest in neurobiology, the reader will assume you are trying to impress him/her with shallow tactics. Also, be sure you can write to admissions officers and that you are not writing over their heads.
- Can you keep the reader's interest from the first word. The entire essay must be interesting, considering admissions officers will probably only spend a few minutes reading each essay.
- Is your topic overdone? To ascertain this, peruse through old essays. EssayEdge's 100 free essays can help you do this. However, most topics are overdone, and this is not a bad thing. A unique or convincing answer to a classic topic can pay off big.
- Will your topic turnoff a large number of people? If you write on how everyone should worship your God, how wrong or right abortion is, or how you think the Republican or Democratic Party is evil, you will not get into the college of your choice. The only thing worse than not writing a memorable essay is writing an essay that will be remembered negatively. Stay away from specific religions, political doctrines, or controversial opinions. You can still write an essay about Nietzsche's influence on your life, but express understanding that not all intelligent people will agree with Nietzsche's claims. Emphasize instead Nietzsche's influence on **your** life, and not why you think he was wrong or right in his claims.
- In this vein, if you are presenting a topic that is controversial, you must acknowledge counter arguments without sounding arrogant.
- Will an admissions officer remember your topic after a day of reading hundreds of essays? What will the officer remember about your topic? What will the officer remember about you? What will your lasting impression be?

After evaluating your essay topics with the above criteria and asking for the opinions of your teachers or colleagues, and of your friends, you should have at least 1-2 interesting essay topics. Consider the following guidelines below.

1. If you are planning on writing an essay on how you survived poverty in Russia, your mother's suicide, your father's kidnapping, or your immigration to America from Asia, you should be careful that your main goal is to address your own personal qualities. Just because something sad or horrible has happened to you does not mean that you will be a good college or graduate school student. You don't want to be remembered as the pathetic applicant. You want to be remembered as the applicant who showed

relating to this topic are considered among the best. Unless you only use the horrible experience as a lens with which to magnify your own personal characteristics, you will not write a good essay. Graduate and professional school applicants should generally steer clear of this topic altogether unless you can argue that your experience will make you a better businessman, doctor, lawyer, or scholar.

2. Essays should fit in well with the rest of a candidate's application, explaining the unexplained and steering clear of that which is already obvious. For example, if you have a 4.0 GPA and a 1500 SAT, no one doubts your ability to do the academic work and addressing this topic would be ridiculous. However, if you have an 850 SAT and a 3.9 GPA or a 1450 SAT and a 2.5 GPA, you would be wise to incorporate in your essay an explanation for the apparent contradiction. For example, perhaps you were hospitalized or family concerns prevented your dedication to academics; you would want to mention this in your essay. However, do not make your essay one giant excuse. Simply give a quick, convincing explanation within the framework of your larger essay.

3. "Diversity" is the biggest buzzword of the 1990's. Every college, professional school, or graduate school wants to increase diversity. For this reason, so many applicants are tempted to declare what makes them diverse. However, simply saying you are a black, lesbian female will not impress admissions officers in the least. While an essay incorporating this information would probably be your best topic idea, you must finesse the issue by addressing your own personal qualities and how you overcame stigma, dealt with social ostracism, etc. If you are a rich student from Beverly Hills whose father is an engineer and whose mother is a lawyer, but you happen to be a minority, an essay about how you dealt with adversity would be unwise. You must demonstrate vividly your personal qualities, interests, motivations, etc. Address specifically how your diversity will contribute to the realm of campus opinion, the academic environment, and social life.

4. Don't mention weaknesses unless you absolutely need to explain them away. You want to make a positive first impression, and telling an admissions officer anything about drinking, drugs, partying, etc. undermines your goal. EssayEdge editors have read more essays on ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) than we would ever have imagined. Why admit to weakness when you can instead showcase your strengths?

5. Be honest, but not for honesty's sake. Unless you are a truly excellent writer, your best, most passionate writing will be about events that actually occurred. While you might be tempted to invent hardship, it is completely unnecessary. Write an essay about your life that demonstrates your personality.

Writing the Essay

You may be surprised that we do not address actually writing the essay until step three. From that, you should understand the extreme importance of selecting a proper subject matter. However, even seemingly boring topics can be made into exceptional admissions essays with an innovative approach. In writing the essay you must bear in mind your two goals: to persuade the admissions officer that you are extremely worthy of admission and to make the admissions officer aware that you are more than a GPA and a standardized score, that you are a real-life, intriguing personality.

Unfortunately, there is no surefire step-by-step method to writing a good essay.

writing your admissions essay.

1. **Answer the Question.** You can follow the next 12 steps, but if you miss the question, you will not be admitted to any institution.
2. **Be Original.** Even seemingly boring essay topics can sound interesting if creatively approached. If writing about a gymnastics competition you trained for, do not start your essay: "I worked long hours for many weeks to train for XXX competition." Consider an opening like, "Every morning I awoke at 5:00 to sweat, tears, and blood as I trained on the uneven bars hoping to bring the state gymnastics trophy to my hometown."
3. **Be Yourself.** Admissions officers want to learn about you and your writing ability. Write about something meaningful and describe your feelings, not necessarily your actions. If you do this, your essay will be unique. Many people travel to foreign countries or win competitions, but your feelings during these events are unique to you. Unless a philosophy or societal problem has interested you intensely for years, stay away from grand themes that you have little personal experience with.
4. **Don't "Thesaurize" your Composition.** For some reason, students continue to think big words make good essays. Big words are fine, but only if they are used in the appropriate contexts with complex styles. Think Hemingway.
5. **Use Imagery and Clear, Vivid Prose.** If you are not adept with imagery, you can write an excellent essay without it, but it's not easy. The application essay lends itself to imagery since the entire essay requires your experiences as supporting details. Appeal to the five senses of the admissions officers.
6. **Spend the Most Time on your Introduction.** Expect admissions officers to spend 1-2 minutes reading your essay. You must use your introduction to grab their interest from the beginning. You might even consider completely changing your introduction after writing your body paragraphs.
 - **Don't Summarize in your Introduction.** Ask yourself why a reader would want to read your entire essay after reading your introduction. If you summarize, the admissions officer need not read the rest of your essay.
 - **Create Mystery or Intrigue in your Introduction.** It is not necessary or recommended that your first sentence give away the subject matter. Raise questions in the minds of the admissions officers to force them to read on. Appeal to their emotions to make them relate to your subject matter.
7. **Body Paragraphs Must Relate to Introduction.** Your introduction can be original, but cannot be silly. The paragraphs that follow must relate to your introduction.

detriment. You must use transition within paragraphs and especially between paragraphs to preserve the logical flow of your essay. Transition is not limited to phrases like "as a result, in addition, while . . . , since . . . , etc." but includes repeating key words and progressing the idea. Transition provides the intellectual architecture to argument building.

9. **Conclusions are Crucial.** The conclusion is your last chance to persuade the reader or impress upon them your qualifications. In the conclusion, avoid summary since the essay is rather short to begin with; the reader should not need to be reminded of what you wrote 300 words before. Also do not use stock phrases like "in conclusion, in summary, to conclude, etc." You should consider the following conclusions:

- Expand upon the broader implications of your discussion.
- Consider linking your conclusion to your introduction to establish a sense of balance by reiterating introductory phrases.
- Redefine a term used previously in your body paragraphs.
- End with a famous quote that is relevant to your argument. Do not **try** to do this, as this approach is overdone. This should come naturally.
- Frame your discussion within a larger context or show that your topic has widespread appeal.
- Remember, your essay need not be so tidy that you can answer why your little sister died or why people starve in Africa; you are not writing a "sit-com," but should forge some attempt at closure.

10. **Do Something Else.** Spend a week or so away from your draft to decide if you still consider your topic and approach worthwhile.

11. **Give your Draft to Others.** Ask editors to read with these questions in mind:

- What is the essay about?
- Have I used active voice verbs wherever possible?
- Is my sentence structure varied or do I use all long or all short sentences?
- Do you detect any cliches?
- Do I use transition appropriately?
- Do I use imagery often and does this make the essay clearer and more vivid?
- What's the best part of the essay?

- What's the worst part of the essay?
- What parts of the essay need elaboration or are unclear?
- What parts of the essay do not support your main argument or are immaterial to your case?
- Is every single sentence crucial to the essay? This **MUST** be the case.
- What does the essay reveal about your personality?
- Could anyone else have written this essay?
- How would you fill in the following blank based on the essay: "I want to accept you to this college because our college needs more _____."

12. **Revise, Revise, Revise.** You only are allowed so many words; use them wisely. If H.D. Thoreau couldn't write a good essay without revision, neither will you. Delete anything in the essay that does not relate to your main argument. Do you use transition? Are your introduction and conclusions more than summaries? Did you find every single grammatical error?

- Allow for the evolution of your main topic. Do not assume your subject must remain fixed and that you can only tweak sentences.
- Editing takes time. Consider reordering your supporting details, delete irrelevant sections, and make clear the broader implications of your experiences. Allow your more important arguments to come to the foreground. Take points that might only be implicit and make them explicit.

Example of a successful essay:

"Sometimes, I think the world around me is crumbling to the ground, but it never does. Like most people, I face the crunches of deadlines and endless demands on my time, but I have never encountered the type of adversity that can crush people, that can drive people crazy, that can drive them to suicide. In this respect, I am lucky. In love with Scripture and the Bible verses I memorized in youth, I find support when I seek it. With a very large family network, I can rely on my loved ones for advice and support, but I realized firsthand that many people lack this help; they never experience the bonds between family members and the touch of God through Scripture.

Frequently, I volunteer at a low-income pre-school in our community. The children who attend are deprived of the most basic things in life, the things I take for granted. Hungry for love and knowledge, these children love to be hugged and talked to, and they very much look forward to my weekly visits. Moreover, they have helped me to understand my obligation to help those less fortunate and to realize how truly blessed I

unforgettable lessons about love and integrity. I am amazed each time I go there at the power they have over me. I am amazed at how sometimes it takes the innocence of a child to open doors that have been locked for years.

While I never had to deal with their pain and can never know their heartache and longing, I look to them as examples of why I should continue to work hard and to not waste opportunities. However, I need not look outside my family for this inspiration, for my cousin is a symbol of strength in adversity. I need look no farther than Ann Elizabeth when I feel like my world is falling apart and that I have too many commitments and too little time. Through Ann Elizabeth, I see the strength of the Lord and see the courage that I hope I will one day possess. Ann Elizabeth has shaped my life through her example and has made me into someone you would want to participate in your university's community. Hers is the story of wrong choices, of a life wasted, and of recovery, courage, and change. I am proud to call her my cousin.

Ann lives through pain and heartbreak, but she will live to see triumph because she has what it takes, but she needs all this courage just to stay alive. Born a rich girl, she grew up to be beautiful, destined to live in a house with a white picket fence. A Gainesville socialite and a southern belle, she visited country clubs and gardens at tea time, but she was never happy. She knew nothing of need, nothing of heartache, nothing of life. But she learned and continues to learn more about pain than anyone should ever know. Ann is a beautiful 22 year-old girl with a long slender figure and eyes full of pain. She has a mother, father, and 16 year-old brother sitting at home. They pray for her each night; they pray that she survives another day caged in her Peruvian prison cell.

At age 17, months from her 18th birthday, Ann Elizabeth ran away from home, rocking my family's structured world. No one knew where she was, but no one thought she could make it. What did this rich girl know about surviving? Finally, my uncle found her. She had moved to Miami and became involved with the wrong crowd. She married a Cuban named Lester who spoke no English, forcing her to learn Spanish, a skill that would save her life. Poor, she looked for employment, and in December, she was offered a job. For the cursed sum of \$7,000 dollars, she threw her entire life away; she destroyed herself for nothing. A naïve, stupid girl, she ended her chances at happiness with one decision, and after that, her goal became not to be happy, but to survive a life of hell.

In December of 1995, when most young, newlyweds are putting up Christmas trees, she was smuggling cocaine for her Lester. On her way to the plane back to the US she was stopped and found with 18 pounds of deadly white powder in her suitcase. The 20 year-old princess was caught on her first run; she was no drug dealer; she was just stupid. Even after being caught she didn't know she was in trouble. All she knew was that she had to get home. She had to get back to Miami, but she never made it home.

At the time of her arrest, Ann Elizabeth was almost dead. An 88-pound heroine addict, we thought she was going to die; in fact, we thought she was dead already. In a way, getting caught saved her life, but it saved her for hell. Ironically, the place she had always run away from was now the place she needed to be most, but she just couldn't get home. Caught, tried, and sentenced, she started life over in a wretched Peruvian jail.

The steel bars that surround Ann Elizabeth are not fit for animals, let alone human beings. Peruvian prisons are not known for their humanity. In a prison built for 250 prisoners, she lives with 900 other women. The all-female prison is completely self-

others. When Ann Elizabeth writes letters and her Peruvian guards accept them, she writes of the "adventures" she has had. She describes chickens that run inside the jail, soiling on the same places where the women must sleep. The water is so contaminated that the prisoners must boil it before drinking. Instead of dining on steak, she now dines on rice. With malnutrition plaguing the prison, many of the women have lost their hair and teeth. For \$7,000, she ruined her life.

Over the two years and four months she has been imprisoned, my uncle, her father, has visited her only seven times. Through his efforts, the U.S. embassy has attempted to alleviate some of the nutrition problems. Providing the Americans just enough vitamins and minerals to stay alive, my cousin watches as those around her rot and die before her very eyes.

When Ann Elizabeth was first imprisoned, she had the all-too-familiar attitude that it was just another thing that wasn't her fault. She believed herself the victim, but she allowed herself to be victimized. After being in Lima a year, she realized that all her problems had been caused from within. She's finally come to realize that there is indeed a higher force. A force higher than herself, the force of God. After extensively reading and studying her Bible, she now spends her time teaching the women how to read God's Word. She relies on her now God-given hope and courage to get through these difficult times. After going through such tremendous physical pain and mental anguish, she had lost all hope. She had hit rock bottom; death seemed like her only way out. Forced to start her life all over again she began to think of her future. God has given her the strength to make some responsible decisions for the first time. She has grown up. It has taken every ounce of courage in her, but she has made it.

We have all been down a very long road. There have been so many twists and turns along the way, but finally we have found our precious "E" again. It won't be an easy road, it never is, but we will make it. Love heals all wounds, even ones that rip people to shreds, or so we hope. Ann Elizabeth let us into her heart for the very first time, and that took the greatest amount of courage of all.

Through Ann Elizabeth, I have come to realize that people make their own choices in life, and eventually we are held accountable for those choices. Through my love for her and knowledge of what she has had to go through, I make different decisions than other people my age. I value life; and with every choice I make I think of Ann Elizabeth, my family, the children, and most of all my Lord. With their support and guidance, I will prevail. Hopefully, so will she.

College Packing List: The Stuff To Take

Getting ready to go away to college? What should you pack? There are dozens of things you might not think about until you're at school and discover you miss them. We've assembled this handy checklist to help you make sure you're comfortable in your new environment. If you're going to have a roommate, coordinate the bigger items (phone, TV, VCR, stereo) with him or her...you won't need two of them, and there probably wouldn't be room anyway.

Clothing:	♦ Athletic shoes or sneakers (a lot of walking coming up!)
♦ Bathing suit	♦ Baseball cap (the ultimate cure for the inevitable bad hair day--and we all have 'em.)
♦ Bathrobe for making your way down the hall to the bathroom	♦ Boots (snowboots!)
♦ Coat (heavy for cold climates)	♦ Dressy shoes to go with your outfit (you don't want to wear a suit or dress with sneakers!)
♦ Favorite T-shirts	♦ Gloves or mittens
♦ Hat (for cold weather)	♦ In-line skates
♦ Jackets - light for cool weather, heavy for cold	♦ Jeans
♦ Jewelry (though we don't recommend taking anything valuable)	♦ Lint brush or tape roller
♦ Long underwear	♦ Pajamas
♦ Pantyhose and/or tights (for women) (and clear nail polish to stop runs!)	♦ Raincoat
♦ Rubber flip flops for shower	♦ Sandals
♦ Scarf (for cold weather)	♦ Shorts
♦ Small sewing kit (come on, you have to sew on the occasional button!)	♦ Socks and underwear (bring a lot!!)
♦ Slippers or scuffs	♦ Sunglasses
♦ Sweatclothes	♦ Watch
Decoration:	♦ Area Carpet for your room
♦ Blankets or comforters	♦ Coasters (to prevent wet rings and waterspots from cold drinks!)
♦ Cork bulletin board	♦ Famous quotes - If you're having a tough time in college use a quote to help you through it. Quotes are universal; there is a quote for every situation.

♦ Holiday decorations of choice	♦ "Husband"--a backrest that looks like the top of a chair
♦ Houseplant or two (if you've got a green thumb!)	♦ Mattress pad
♦ Pictures of family and friends	♦ Posters and pictures for your walls
♦ Push pins or thumbtacks for your bulletin board	♦ Room deodorizer
♦ Screwdriver	♦ Small bookcase (if you'll have room)
♦ Stuffed bear or other favorite stuffed animal	♦ Tape (masking tape, scotch tape, or double-sided--or poster tack!)
Wipeaway message board and dry erase markers	
Dishes and Food:	
♦ Aluminum foil	♦ Blender
♦ Can opener	♦ Coffee cup or mug
♦ Coffee maker and coffee packets (or single serving coffee bags)	♦ Cutting Board
♦ Dishes: a few plates, silverware, cups and glasses, storage containers	♦ Dishwashing liquid
♦ Favorite soft drink or bottled water	♦ Hot-air popcorn popper
♦ Hotplate (check with your dorm to make sure they're allowed)	♦ Ice cube trays
♦ Microwave (if they're allowed)	♦ Paper plates (so convenient if you don't like to wash dishes!)
♦ Paper towels, napkins, dishcloths	♦ Self-sealing plastic bags
♦ Small refrigerator if the school doesn't supply them	♦ Stockpile of candy, gum, other favorite treats
♦ Toaster (check to make sure your school allows them!)	♦ Water filter (portable)
Electronics:	♦ Alarm clock
♦ Answering machine	♦ Batteries
♦ Camera	♦ Extension cords
♦ Fan (especially if your dorm isn't air conditioned!!)	♦ Film
♦ Flashlight	♦ Headphones (great if you and your roommate don't like the same tunes)
♦ Lamp (a small clip-on one is good!)	♦ Personal book light or night visor (so your roomie

♦ Personal stereo and favorite CDs or tapes. (Just don't take them all!)	♦ Surge protector or power strip
♦ Telephone	
Finance	
♦ ATM card (try to limit your withdrawals!)	♦ Cash (though not too much!)
♦ Checkbook	♦ Prepaid calling card
♦ Quarters for doing laundry (lots of quarters!)	♦ Driver's License (or other form of gov't ID)
Organization and Storage	♦ Address book with addresses of friends at home and other schools
♦ Air mattress and pump	♦ Backpack (or a bookbag, which can usually hold more)
♦ Baking soda (great for deodorizing)	♦ Basket for shower items
♦ Bicycle and bicycle lock	♦ Calendar
♦ Catalogs for holiday shopping (especially if you're not taking a car!)	♦ Cleaning supplies--glass cleaner, sponge, dishwashing liquid, etc
♦ Clothes pins--useful for everything from keeping the chips closed to hanging things to dry	♦ Closet organizer
♦ Coat hangers	♦ Desk organizer
♦ Door stop (important if your dorm room door closes automatically, as many do)	♦ Drying rack for clothes you don't want to put in the dryer
♦ Duct tape	♦ Filing cabinet - if you don't have one use a plastic crate
♦ Foot locker or storage box	♦ Garbage bags
♦ Glue and/or superglue	♦ Glue gun (great for fixing everything from drooping hems to broken items!)
♦ Hooks (over the door hooks add great additional storage for clothing)	♦ Laundry bag or basket
♦ Light bulbs	♦ Padlock or combination lock for the gym or library
♦ Plastic crates to store your stuff--dorms are notoriously low on closet, drawer, and shelf space!	♦ Plug-in outlet adapters and extenders
♦ Self-sealing bags--great for storage, soaking laundry, etc.	♦ Shoe organizer
♦ Small wash tub or basin	♦ Stationery and stamps (lots of stamps!)

♦ School supply items	♦ Tape the five kinds.
♦ Duct	♦ Electrical
♦ Masking	♦ Medical
♦ Scotch	♦ Tape measure
♦ Travel guide of your new city or town	♦ Wastebasket (many schools only allow a metal one)
♦ Wetwipes for quick cleanups	
♦ Personal Care:	
♦ Aspirin or other pain reliever	♦ Bible or religious work of choice
♦ Brush and comb	♦ Bug spray
♦ Cards or board games--they make great icebreakers!	♦ Chapstick (Lip Ice) (just wait until that wind hits your lips in January)
♦ Contact lens care products (and extra lenses if you wear disposables)	♦ Cotton balls
♦ Cotton swabs	♦ Deodorant
♦ Drying rack for laundry (handwashables)	♦ Egg crate foam mattress (dorm mattresses are often uncomfortable)
♦ Extra eyeglasses or contacts	♦ Eyedrops
♦ Feminine care products	♦ First aid kit (small; at least take band-aids and disinfectant)
♦ Fragrance	♦ Hair dryer
♦ Health insurance card	♦ Iron
♦ Ironing board (miniature)	♦ Journal or diary
♦ Laundry detergent and stain stick	♦ Lotion (hand or body to combat dry skin!)
♦ Makeup mirror (guys can use them for shaving)	♦ Mirror to hang on the wall for those last minute hair/make-up checks
♦ Nail clippers and file	♦ Nail polish remover
♦ Pepper Spray	♦ Pillow (or lots of pillows for your bed)
♦ Photo album of friends and family	♦ Prescription medications and refills
♦ Q-Tips (Ear buds)	♦ Razor, shaving cream, deodorant, and other toiletries
♦ Safety pins	♦ Shampoo and conditioner
♦ Sheets and pillowcases	♦ Static Guard

♦ Sunscreen	♦ Soap or shower gel
♦ Tissues	♦ Toilet paper
♦ Toothbrush and toothpaste	♦ Towels and washcloths (don't forget a beach towel)
♦ Tweezers	♦ Umbrella
♦ Vitamins	♦ Wall mirror (if your dorm doesn't have them)
♦ Zit cream (really important before a big date!)	
♦	♦
Study Aids:	♦
♦ Book of common quotations (reference)	♦ Calculator
♦ Calendar	♦ Computer (laptops are great if you can swing it)
♦ Computer diskettes	♦ Computer paper
♦ Crayons (more useful than you might think!)	♦ Dictionary (bring a good one, or get one at school)
♦ Earplugs (in case your dorm is noisy or your roommate snores)	♦ Folders
♦ Highlighter pen(s)	♦ Hole punch
♦ Lap desk	♦ Light bulbs
♦ Markers	♦ Miniature cassette recorder
♦ Notebooks (but you may want to buy ones with your school's logo once you get there!)	♦ Note cards
♦ Organizer or daily planner	♦ Paper Clips
♦ Pens	♦ Pencils and erasers
♦ Pencil sharpener	♦ Post-It Notes
♦ Printer (for computer) and printer paper	♦ Rubber bands
♦ Ruler	♦ Scissors
♦ Stapler, staples, and staple remover	♦ Thesaurus
♦ White-Out (Tip-ex)(for cleaning up those messy errors)	♦ Writer's guide or grammar book

Remember that the electrical voltage in the United States is different than that of South Africa. Unless you are prepared with the correct adapters your South African appliances will not work.